

Thomas Gray Primary Community Outreach Policy

Introduction

At Thomas Gray Primary School we are committed to supporting community cohesion by:

- developing a common vision and sense of belonging;
- developing an appreciation of the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances;
- creating opportunities for all students to achieve their potential;
- building strong and positive relationships.

We recognise that this is of particular importance in a school which is predominantly mono-cultural preparing its students for life and work in a multi-cultural society and world.

The term 'community' has a number of dimensions for Thomas Gray Primary School including:

- The school community ~ the young people it serves, their parents, the staff and governing body and community users of the school's facilities and services.
- The communities created by the networks we establish with schools, colleges, universities, local churches, local businesses and other partners.
- The local community of Bootle, Sefton and Merseyside.
- The U.K. Community.
- The Global Community.

How does Thomas Gray Primary contribute towards community outreach?

We help to build community outreach by:

- Promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for all students irrespective of background in terms of gender, ability, culture, ethnicity, religious belief or socio-economic circumstances.
- Promoting school values and encouraging students to engage with others to understand what they all hold in common.

The school's contribution to community outreach can be grouped under three headings:

- i) Teaching, learning and curriculum
Helping young people to understand others, to value diversity, respect human rights and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.
- ii) Equity and excellence
To ensure all students have equal opportunity to achieve their potential.
- iii) Engagement and extended services
To provide opportunities for students to interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures.
To build links with different schools and communities.

To provide extended services.

Where are we now?

Promoting community cohesion is already strongly embedded in our existing practice as detailed below, but we are committed to developing this aspect of our work further.

Teaching, learning and curriculum

- We are an effective school with high standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision. We have high expectations of our students and we set challenging individual achievement targets.
- There are opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and help students value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. This is particularly evident in our RE, SMSC and Collective Worship programmes.
- An extensive programme of curriculum and extra-curricular activities enrich students' understanding of community and diversity through fieldwork, visits, including trips abroad, visits to places of worship and opportunities to meet with members of different communities.
- A comprehensive programme of collective worship which includes themed assemblies and inputs from members of the local and wider community.

Equity and excellence

- We promote high standards of achievement for all. We set challenging individual targets for all our students, monitor their progress regularly and have robust strategies of intervention and support.
- We make sure there are no barriers to achievement and work to remove disparities in attainment between different groups.
- We promote an inclusive, caring, supporting ethos in which all children are valued as individuals.
- We expect high standards of behaviour and have effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.

Engagement and Extended Services

School to school

- We have links with other schools, locally, nationally and internationally.
- We are part of the 'Strand Network' group of schools within the length of Sefton that meets to share ideas and good practice.
- We have strong links with The Hawthornes High School into which the majority of our children feed and other High schools as and when necessary. These links extend not only to transition work but also to work supporting the curriculum and extra curricular activities.
- We take several High school students on work experience from local schools (often ex pupils).
- Some of our students have opportunities to interact with students from abroad through our international links.
- We have formed a link with a school in Bootle, in the Lake District linked to Year 3 and 4 topic work.

School Parents and the Community

- Students have a voice and opportunities to take responsibility through our system of school council with children from Years 1 to 6 and through child friendly questionnaires.
- Family Learning courses eg: FAST courses.
- Students participate in community based activities through work with local associations eg Riverside Housing organised litter picks, bulb planting in local parks etc.
- We engage with parents through a range of activities including Parents' evenings, questionnaires and a Summer Fair in partnership with Bankhall Mission. Our pastoral system working with the EWO service and SAIS is sensitive to the needs of families requiring additional support.
- We have strong links with external agencies including SAIS, social services, the EWO service, the health service and police.
- We have strong links with Edge Hill University, and Hugh Baird College with trainees and students working in school for much of the year.
- We engage with local community groups eg the Brunswick Youth Club and St Leonard's Youth Club to enhance the partnership between school and club.
- We have close links with Bankhall Mission who run an after school club and community events e.g. Summer Fair, Victorian Christmas.
- We have and an Early Bird Club that begins at 8.30am.

Equality

- We ensure that that no pupil, staff or community member is discriminated against in relation to age, disability, race, gender, religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity or marriage and civil partnership.

Where would we like to be?

Community outreach is already strongly embedded in our existing practice but we are committed to developing this aspect of our work further. This includes:

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

- Continuing to strive to ensure that every student achieves their potential by setting challenging targets, monitoring progress and developing more effective intervention and support mechanisms.
- Continuing to develop opportunities for our students to travel nationally and abroad and interact with students from different backgrounds and cultures.

Equity and Excellence

- Continuing to track and monitor the performance of particular groups in school using Otrack.
- Continuing to develop our pastoral systems to promote a caring supportive ethos free from prejudice, discrimination and bullying.

Engagement and Extended Services

- To continue to develop our international links.
- To apply for the International School Intermediate Award.

- To involve more staff in international links.
- To involve governors more closely in links with our partner schools, locally, nationally and internationally.

School to parents and the community

- To continue to develop our links with community groups and organisations.
- To continue to develop student voice through School Council.
- To strengthen our links with national and international charities.

This Policy has been adopted with the approval of the School Governing Body.

Signed: AP Taylor
Chair of Governors

Date: 26/11/15

Signed: [Signature]
Headteacher

Date: 26/11/15

Date to be reviewed: Autumn 2018