

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE



INTERNATIONAL POLICY

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INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Introduction

Through the inclusion of an international focus at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre, we are able to offer our students a range of experiences that will enhance their learning and raise awareness of their national and international identity.

According to the British Council, International education involves the following important aspects:

- knowledge and respect for other countries and cultures
- knowledge of global issues
- cross-cultural communication skills, including through language learning

The Governors and staff recognise that:

- global issues are an important part of the lives of our students living in a world where economies are increasingly interdependent and global communication is a daily reality. Our students have access to the internet and increased opportunity to travel, watch news stories from around the world as they develop, and follow, for example, international sporting events as they happen
- the global dimension should be reflected in the attitudes and values of our students, the ethos of the academy, and the curriculum
- as an academy, we have a commitment to promoting equality (please refer to Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre Equality Statement)

As part of our SMSC/PSHCE curriculum and International School Award programme, students' cultural development involves:

- acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to respond to a variety of experiences.
- acquiring a respect for their own culture and that of others and to understand core British Values.
- developing an interest in others' way of doing things and curiosity about differences.
- developing the knowledge, skills understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.
- challenging stereotypes and becoming well-rounded global citizens.

Policy aims and objectives

To enable our students to know more about global issues and to:

- embed the global dimension within the school curriculum, engaging students to celebrate their own cultural identity and to foster respect for other cultures, languages and religion
- prepare students for life in a diverse global society and work in a competitive global economy
- celebrate the rich and diverse heritage represented in our academy, and local, national and international communities.
- understand complex international interdependencies in the global economy
- enjoy regular contact with students and adults from other countries

This will be achieved through:

- working towards maintaining the International School Award
- integrating the global dimension into the curriculum by raising staff awareness of valid curriculum links
- developing a strong awareness of similarities and differences in lifestyles and culture in a range of other countries
- involving staff and students in the development of contacts with our global partners
- promoting international vocational links within the aims of this policy
- conducting annual audits which, in turn, inform action plans to develop each of the following key concepts of the global dimension (diversity, conflict resolution, human rights, interdependence, social justice, sustainable development, and values and perceptions) through all appropriate areas of the curriculum such that there is a clearly mapped global dimension in the learning experiences for all our students
- actively encouraging the study of foreign languages for all our students by offering a range of appropriate language options
- organising regular celebrations of our rich and diverse heritage
- students and staff having opportunities to participate in cultural visits
- utilising online resources and external organisations, such as Reading International Solidarity Centre, The Day and RSC) to plan activities
- provision of professional learning opportunities to share ideas about implementing international work in curriculum and lesson planning

Managing the policy

The PSHCE Coordinator will liaise with middle and senior leaders and will coordinate international activities. They will conduct an annual review of international education at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre.

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated through whole school self-evaluation by senior leaders and governors of our provision of SMSC [Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural] education in learning walks, lesson observations, assemblies, mentor period review and other monitoring and evaluation activities.