



## THOMAS'S BATTERSEA COMMUNITY POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

Our curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. The school aims to be a thriving and cohesive community, playing our part in building a more cohesive society. As the make-up of our school is not particularly diverse it is our duty to address issues of 'how we live together' and 'dealing with difference', acknowledging that we live in a community which is diverse in terms of culture, faith, ethnicity and social background.

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

We aim to promote strong, positive and mutually beneficial relationships in the school community and beyond. We actively support the upholding of fundamental British values important to life in modern Britain. This includes mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and extending the pupils' understanding of cultural diversity.

Pupils are expected to embody the school's values of kindness, courtesy and being a giver not a taker.

The school's contribution to, and understanding of, community cohesion (both in school, in the local area, in the United Kingdom and globally) can be divided into two parts as below:

### PROCEDURES

#### Teaching and learning in school:

We teach our pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to develop an awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them and to use the skills of participation and responsible action. The importance of the pupil voice is recognised and heard. We teach democracy, individual liberty and rule of law and examples of this are:

- The School Council – pupils are elected by their classmates to debate issues in school which they feel are important
- The Green Unicorns – a pupil led working group which devises ways to make the school 'greener' and promotes and carries out those initiatives
- ABC anti-bullying initiative – Middle and Upper School pupils are encouraged to speak to the pupil representative of the Anti-Bullying Committee (ABC) in their class. Their maxim is

'It's right to tell'. If they fear bullying, pupils are encouraged to tell their parents, a teacher or an ABC committee member who will then assist them in seeking help.

- Be Kind Day for Lower School pupils
- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education: pupils receive lessons on PSHCE each week. Topics range from democracy and human rights to alcohol and drugs. This teaching aims to help pupils develop fully as individuals as well as members of families and social and economic communities.
- Charitable activities – pupils select and support two charities on a two year cycle – see Charities Policy

### **Activities in the community:**

We believe in taking our values beyond the school gates. Battersea is a culturally and economically diverse area of London and we aim to be good neighbours to those on our doorstep. Through a very active PTA and through the work of the Thomas's Schools Foundation we engage in many ways with our local community. We show our pupils and their families how to be involved and how to develop links with the local area and to develop knowledge and understanding of the wider community.

Here are some examples:

- The PTA runs local volunteer projects, which involve Upper School and some Middle School pupils. These take place frequently and strengthen links with local schools, charities and other community projects and centres. Projects range from clearing and cleaning the bank of the Thames, sorting clothing and preparing window displays at a local charity shop and working in a roof top garden designed for residents of a local tower block. Year 3 pupils visit George Potter House regularly, a care home for patients with dementia, and entertain them by playing music, singing and chatting to them.
- Pupils from local schools enjoy weekly Glee and Pottery Clubs, held at Thomas's Battersea and at a local primary school.
- Pupils may volunteer to join a Community Gardening Club, planting, tending and tidying the communal garden for Lindsay Court residents in Battersea High Street
- The Friends of Battersea Square: The Head chairs a community group for local residents, schools and businesses. This was founded by the school and acts as a hub to put members of the community in touch with one another. Each year the group runs Carols in the Square, a Christmas community event for local residents and businesses
- Parents' Reading Scheme: parents deliver almost 150 hours of guided reading each week in local primary schools, coordinated by the PTA
- Thomas's Schools Foundation: TSF was founded by the founders of Thomas's London Day Schools and is a charity which works to provide educational and extracurricular opportunities for children in the local communities of the four Thomas's London Day Schools. TSF is run by volunteers and entirely reliant upon donations to continue its work. TSF also offers bursarial support to families who would not otherwise be able to afford the school fees.
- The CAIRN Trust: This is a UK registered charity founded by the founders of Thomas's London Day Schools and dedicated to ensuring that every child in Nepal receives the opportunity of education. The charity works in rural areas where 84% of the Nepalese population live and where education is not accessible for many.

- Pupils choose charities for the school to support on a biennial rotation. Middle & Upper School pupils and, separately, Lower School pupils vote for their choice following presentations by the charities. They then learn about their activities and fundraise for them.
- Thomas's Academy, formerly New King's Primary School, where our teachers collaborate and make links with the teaching staff in order to support one another and develop professionally. Both schools benefit enormously from these relationships.

## REFERENCES

This policy has been informed by:

HM Gov 'Education Act' (2011)

HM Gov 'Equality Act' (2010)

**See also:**      [Charities Policy](#), [PSHCE Policy](#), [SMSC Policy](#)

<b>This policy will be reviewed annually</b>		
Created: January 2016	By:	Angela McDonald, Chief of Staff
Latest Review: November 2017	By:	Angela McDonald, Chief of Staff
Next Review: November 2018	By:	Angela McDonald, Chief of Staff