

# **Park Hill Primary School**

## **Policy for Community and Business Links**

### **Aims**

- To ensure all pupils, whatever their ability, experience a broad and balanced range of activities during their career at Park hill.
- To raise the profile of Park hill School as an active member of its community.
- For Park Hill School to take its place in the community

### **Requirements**

Many references are made within the National Curriculum to the importance of children understanding their role – locally, nationally and globally. Although not specifically required, working with community and business organisations, inline with the 'Every Child Matters' document, is the best way in which this can be achieved.

There are lots of helpful suggestions at the end of most QCA documents for where children and teachers may gain further insight and opportunities for developing their learning through links with organisations.

### **Existing Practice**

The Community Education Development Officer for the area has organised various community based projects for our children.

The Careers and Education Business Partnership (CEBP) provide opportunities for class teachers to visit community and business organisations in order to collect useful resources, plan class visits, or simply widen their knowledge for teaching a relevant topic. When these opportunities coincide with units within the 8-year plan or needs/interests of specific staff members, the Community and Business Links co-ordinator liaises with CEBP to apply for placements. Any materials acquired through such visits can then be given to relevant year group teachers or curriculum co-ordinators.

When opportunities arise, representatives from community and business organisations may visit school to work with staff or pupils. This is encouraged provided the contact with pupils is not exploitative and the representative abides by our existing school policies and practice.

Park Hill has a School Travel Plan aiming to increase sustainable travel to school. It also participates in road safety projects.

### **Resources**

From time to time, organisations and businesses publish teaching resources which can be integrated into specific topics or stand as independent projects.

These are handed to either a relevant year group or a subject leader to make use of.

Park Hill School affiliates to the CEBP – a charity which facilitates links between schools and local organisations and businesses. The co-ordinator attends their termly meetings in which new opportunities are publicised and resources made available. CEBP also post flyers advertising teacher placements to the co-ordinator in school each half term.

### **Planning and Assessment**

Links with business and community organisations are intended to enhance and develop teaching and learning at Park Hill. It is important, therefore, that we state clearly in our planning how such links will benefit our pupils in the curriculum area for which it is planned. As with any curriculum activity, such links are subject to assessment and evaluation opportunities provided for in our current documentation. Please also see the school planning and assessment policies in relation to this.

The co-ordinator will seek feedback from any participating staff members in order to inform future planning and the role of links within the 8-year plan and school development plan.

### **ICT**

The co-ordinator passes on any software that is available (from external agencies) to relevant co-ordinators or the ICT co-ordinator to use as appropriate. Additionally, the co-ordinator gathers information about internet websites, published by external organisations, which are suitable and useful for specific curriculum areas. This information is distributed to staff via email.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Park Hill School Equal Opportunities Policy states that our aim is to

*‘ . . . adapt displays, community activities and events to ensure inclusion for all . . . [and to] . . . make sure teaching and learning is consistently put in to context to achieve a broad understanding of the world and community we live in.’*  
May 2006

In view of these statements, care should be taken when planning to make use of external agencies that do not necessarily adhere to similar principles. However, whilst it would be inappropriate to take pupils somewhere that may offend their cultural and religious beliefs, it is not the responsibility of school to uphold the political views or opinions of their parents. Hence, if a reputable business offers valuable resources or support in a curriculum area, our concerns should be those of the statements above.

### **Ongoing Plans**

- Organise a fund-raising event within school each term for the benefit of either school fund or an external organisation (local or national charity, for example).
- The Inclusion Working Party, of which the Comm. & Bus. Links Co-ordinator is a member, contributes to implementing this policy.
- Update and develop implementation of the School Travel Plan.
- Pursue achievement of Eco-School status.

This policy is closely linked to the Educational Visits Policy.