

Woodchurch High School

A Church of England Academy



COMMUNITY POLICY DOCUMENT

**Approved by the Curriculum Committee – November 2016
Approved by Full Governors – December 2016**

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Woodchurch High School believes that its links with the Community are very important and a crucial part of its ethos. The school will seek to engage with as wide a section of the community as possible and with all relevant stakeholders. Links are at local, regional, national and international levels, and reflect our commitment to our Christian values.

Parents and Carers

One of our main community links is with parents and carers as it is only by working closely with them that we can provide the best possible education for pupils. Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their children's education and by working together in partnership we can strive to ensure that our pupils achieve their potential. Liaison with parents/carers includes written communications such as letters, newsletters report cards and home-school reports on pupils' progress. A variety of additional opportunities are also provided for parents/carers to engage with the school, e.g. parents' evenings (subject teachers, form tutor, Open Evening, Induction Evening, Curriculum Evenings) as well as telephone conversations. Parents/carers are encouraged to visit school to discuss all matters relating to their child's development and needs. In addition to these particular events we rely on parents' support to maintain a high standard of uniform, encourage regular attendance and check pupils' planners. They and their children, also sign the Woodchurch Home School Agreement on entry to school.

There is regular consultation via letters, school website, VLE, ParentMail and the provision of online curriculum booklets to parents of children in all years. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA where the Headteacher's Report is a standing item used to inform and consult on new initiatives.

Local Community

Woodchurch High School maintains strong links with a wide variety of outside agencies such as the police, local churches, local and regional schools, Connexions, Social Services, Child and Family, and the Woodchurch Partnership. Local businesses, industries and training providers assist us by providing work placements and by individuals coming in to talk to pupils about training opportunities and careers. Every academic year pupils from different year groups visit a variety of local businesses and industries, and attend taster days.

The Governing Body includes a number of members of the local community such as a Councillor and a Community Police Officer.

We work with NHS Wirral through our School Nurse who runs Health Services in School, with a local youth worker.

The Woodchurch Farm offers opportunities for members of the local community to visit at the Christmas Fair and Open Days; also for individuals to work with the animals or in the horticulture section, including the Woodchurch Gardening Club which runs every Thursday afternoon.

Another important aspect of local community involvement is the Woodchurch ICT Club run by Mr Steve Woods at the Pemberton Centre once a week.

Residents from local care homes such as Corona House, Dundoran, Upton Grange and County Homes visit school for events or are visited by Woodchurch pupils, e.g. the Choir visit at Christmas.

Curriculum

Every subject area works closely with a range of relevant organisations who support the curriculum in a range of different ways. These include running sessions in school, facilitating visits, taking assemblies, supporting staff. Staff from all areas also meet with staff from local schools at EQ training events and other meetings that they set up with specific purposes.

Academic Links

Woodchurch High School has strong links with local universities and colleges e.g. Chester University, Liverpool John Moores University, Hope University, Reaseheath. Speakers come into school, pupils attend taster days at those institutions and various members of staff assist in the institutions with recruitment onto teaching qualifications and inputs onto courses. School also assists students and staff with relevant research. Woodchurch has a large ITT programme.

School also has links with SSAT, the TEEP Programme and LEAP Programme, which are being used to help develop teaching and learning. The Woodchurch Farm links with agencies such as Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Wirral Ranger Service and the Rare Breed Association.

Governor Links

Woodchurch High School's Governing Body has representatives from Chester University (Vice-Chair) and from Liverpool Hope University.

Primary Schools

Our close working relationships with primary schools is crucial to smooth transition for pupils and the Headteacher and an Assistant Headteacher meet regularly with Primary Headteachers of local primaries and Church of England primaries. Primary pupils are regularly invited to use our specialist facilities for work in a wide range of subject areas and Woodchurch staff, both teaching and support, visit children in their primary schools to teach lessons, observe lessons or talk to children about the school. The Year 6 transition programme is a key feature of our work and one which helps to aid smooth transition. Extra support is provided for pupils with additional needs.

The school is an active member of the PESS Sports Development Co-ordinator scheme working closely with local Primary Schools to raise standards of achievement in PE. PE staff from Woodchurch High School are timetabled to teach in some local primary schools.

Charity Work

Woodchurch High School is strongly committed to charity fundraising with each year group selecting the charity they wish to support. At Key Stage 3 each form chooses, organises and carries out its own fundraising activity. At Key Stage 4 there are year group events such as MacMillan Coffee Morning, and non-uniform days and the Race for Life are also very successful events. Some of the charities that Woodchurch High School has supported recently have been Christian Aid, Oxfam, Centrepont, Cancer Research, MacMillan and Claire House.

All Year 8 pupils take part in the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. This has various components such as RE and PSHCEE schemes of work but the most important aspect is the three challenges that pupils must do. These are the personal challenge, school challenge and community challenge when pupils carry out a range of activities of benefit to individuals both at school and beyond. Examples are shopping for relatives and supporting nursery staff with activities for children in need.

Regional and National Links

Beyond Wirral, Woodchurch High School has links with a number of different organisations such as the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, TEACHING AGENCY and Church of England. The development of strong links with a number of partners is crucial to effective working.

Our partnership with the Church of England is a key to the school ethos. There are links with the Chester Diocese Church of England primary schools, Holy Cross Church, St Mary's Church and the Chester Diocese. There is a chaplaincy team which supports the work of the school through activities such as Word for the Week, Collective Worship Powerpoints.

International Links

Woodchurch High School has a partnership with the De La Salle School in Cadiz, Spain and there are bi-annual exchanges of pupils and staff. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff at De La Salle is always very positive.

There are annual visits to Austria ski-ing, Paris (Two trips – Art and Maths), Barcelona and the Loire Valley.

Woodchurch High School has achieved the International School Award and the Green Flag.

The school website is regularly updated and is a very useful way of keeping parents and the wider community updated with events and activities.