

PORTFIELD SCHOOL & SATELLITE CENTRES



POLICY DOCUMENT FOR COMMUNITY LINKS



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REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the staff and Governors on an annual basis and in the light of updated legislation.

Headteacher... ..

Date

Chair of Governors

Date

3A Whole School Policy for Community Links

At Portfield School we feel it is important to foster positive links with the community. This involves various aspects of the community, with links being developed in many ways. Our mission statement:

Portfield School Mission Statement

Working together Learning together Achieving together

At Portfield School we strive to

- Create a happy, safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment
- Value everyone
- Develop everyone's personal, social, emotional health and wellbeing
- Promote relevant academic and vocational skills
- Meet individual needs through an imaginative and flexible approach
- Enable all learners to achieve their full potential

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Portfield School places the values and principles of the UNCRC at the heart all policies and practices
- Portfield School is a Rights Respecting School

Work in partnership with parents, carers, governors and other professionals to provide support, guidance and training;

Develop and sustain positive links with the community, encouraging inclusion across a wide spectrum, as appropriate.

At Portfield School we aim to prepare our pupils today for the challenges that face them tomorrow. We will encourage positive attitudes towards the school and its environment from all members of the school community.

In reality this means that as a school we will work closely with all of our partners and that includes parents, outside agencies, the community and the pupils themselves.

We acknowledge that our school is not a building in isolation, but is situated within the community of Haverfordwest, which is part of the larger community of Pembrokeshire and that we are all citizens of Wales. It is important that Portfield School, its pupils, staff and governors are recognised as part of the local and wider community.

We aim to develop links with:

- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Neighbours
- ❖ Local primary schools
- ❖ Secondary schools
- ❖ Pembrokeshire College and other colleges
- ❖ The Press
- ❖ Industry and businesses
- ❖ Other agencies

Parents

The 'open door' policy at Portfield School encourages parents to be involved in their child's education and in school life, particularly as a member of the Friends of Portfield School. We recognise that parents are our first line of contact with the outside world and as such, communicate what is happening in our school to the wider community as well as promoting Portfield School's reputation. We communicate with parents through electronic and paper systems on a regular basis.

Our Neighbours

We invite our neighbours into school for a variety of functions, such as summer and Christmas Fairs, Harvest Festivals, Christmas Plays etc., and always let them know what is happening in school.

Local Schools/College

It is essential to continue to develop links with local schools. This is achieved by:

- ❖ Integration links
- ❖ Outreach visits
- ❖ Informal contacts
- ❖ General Teaching Council visits
- ❖ Family and school meetings
- ❖ Taster courses

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are responsible for these links, although other staff are involved.

Press

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with the local press, via the PR department at County Hall, or directly with the local Western Telegraph and Pembrokeshire Herald. This involves, notifying the PR department of special events and activities taking place in school and communicating whatever information is required. This celebrates our school's achievements, and builds up a good relationship with the local press.

Industry/Businesses

It is important that the children at Portfield School begin to have an understanding of the way the world of work operates. This can be through role-play areas at Foundation Phase, linked to units of work/topics, for example Healthy Snack Café, Pet Shop, Travel Agent, Home Corner, Recycling Centre through links for senior pupils that involve Careers Wales, work experience placements, transition team and Team Enterprise activities.

The pupils visit a range of local businesses as part of their educational programme such as Tesco/Morrisons Superstore, local shops, ferry ports and local attractions e.g. Oakwood, Folly Farm.

The school is well supported by the Emergency Services and a fire tender attends the Sports Fun Day (call outs permitting!). The Headteacher, and Deputy Head and class teacher are responsible for building up contacts with local industries and businesses. These will be linked, where possible, to units of work/topics with visitors invited into school or visits arranged. Careers Wales are also involved in establishing education business links for teaching staff.

Other Agencies

At Portfield School we feel it is important to build up close links with other groups of people who support or work in or with the school. These links include:

- ❖ School nurse and school doctor
- ❖ Pupil Support Officer
- ❖ Educational Psychologists
- ❖ LEA Advisory teachers
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Support staff from other schools
- ❖ Community nurse/diabetic nurse/Incontinence nurse
- ❖ Local Education Offices
- ❖ Voluntary Agencies - ALC

These links vary depending upon need and circumstance.

We always remember that Portfield School is a school community that is part of a wider community, and the links we develop with the wider community help to strengthen and support the education we provide for all children.