



The Polygon School
Headteacher: Mr Ben Penfold

POLICY DOCUMENT

005: International School Award

Access: Unrestricted

Publish to: All Staff / All Pupils & School Website

Status: Non-Statutory

Approval level: Senior Leadership Team

Review Responsibility	Valid From	Signed off	Valid to	Frequency Of review
David Patchell	09-07-2020	Andrea Faustino	09-07-02021	Annual
David Patchell	09-07-2021	Andrea Faustino	09-07-2022	Annual
David Patchell	09-07-2022	FGB	09-07-2024	2 years
David Patchell	09-07-2024	FGB	09-07-2026	2 Years

Polygon School International School Award Policy

1. Introduction

The Polygon is a special school for young people aged 11-16 years for whom mainstream education is not appropriate. All pupils hold an Educational Health Care Plan for social, emotional and mental health needs. All have Individual Education Plans and some will hold individual behaviour plans which are regularly reviewed with parents / carers. The plans include behaviour management and personalised learning strategies that the school will employ to support each young person to reach their full potential. The school serves the community of Southampton City and takes most of its referrals from a specialist feeder Primary school or the nearby Local Authorities. Pupils arrive with little or no self-esteem or confidence to try to learn new skills. Teachers have to support pupils to ensure that effective teaching can take place. It is recognised that this is a long process compounded by emotional trauma experienced by some pupils. The school has sought advice and guidance from colleagues and advisors external to the school to ensure improvements in all subjects. As well as a school-led professional development programme, every member of staff takes responsibility for ensuring their knowledge is current with national advice and guidance from the Department of Education, and local policy and legal changes relevant to the work place.

2. Aims

- a. Our Global dimension is firmly embedded throughout the curriculum, but we will continue to embed and develop the global dimension within the school internal and external curriculum, engaging pupils to celebrate their own cultural identity and to foster respect for other cultures, languages and religions.
- b. To prepare pupils for life in a diverse global society and work in a competitive global economy.
- c. To be proactive in working with global partners and the local community to achieve their educational goals and implementation of a global dimension.

3. Rationale:

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the school retains an international focus at The Polygon School. We implement this by the impact out teachers have on the school/school systems as a whole with the specific reference to the development of global dimension and international ethos. We are able to offer to our pupils a range of experiences that will enhance their understanding and appreciation of their local (Community), national and international identity.

The Governors and Staff at The Polygon School recognise the increasingly interdependent and interrelated world our pupils live in, and the challenges this creates in our shared future. The governors and staff recognise that:

- Global issues are an important part of the lives of our pupils living in a world where economies are increasingly interdependent and global communication is a daily reality. Our pupils have access to the internet which allows for an opportunity to connect with our partner schools. Illustrated by Skype calls from International trips/School Exchanges during assemblies, ie, the Ski and Iceland trips. There is an increased ease with which to travel, follow news stories as they develop, and have an impact locally on our community.
- The global dimension should be reflected in the attitudes and values of our pupils, the ethos of the school, the Programmes of Study/SOW, Assembly plans and Key Skills.
- As a school we have a commitment to both gender and racial equality and celebrate diversity. Being an International School increases the pupil's exposure to cultural difference

and provides a vehicle to teach about Inclusion. For example, our annual Diversity Day and work in PSHE.

4. Objectives

1. To continue to integrate and develop the global dimension into the whole school curriculum by raising staff awareness of valid curriculum links – links to various resources given out weekly by the ISA Co-ordinator.
2. To develop a strong awareness of similarities and differences in lifestyles and culture in a range of other countries.
3. To involve staff (including extended school), pupils, parents and wider community in the development of projects and contact with our global partners.
4. To further develop relationships with partner schools with a focus on enriching the whole school curriculum and communication via ICT, for example, when attending a School Exchange. A partner school has shared knowledge from an Erasmus project as well.
5. To build on the involvement in other international programmes that further develop or meet the policy aims, for example; Learning Through Landscapes, Green Flag/sustainability, Global Teachers Award – Levels 1-3 & the Fair Trade Award.
6. To promote international vocational links within the aims of this policy.
7. To extend the benefits of the global dimension to our network of feeder primary schools, Trust Schools and the wider network of Southampton Schools.

5. Key Priorities over 3 Years

As a school we want to continue to develop pupils, teachers and the school community's global learning within the local community, combining with other schools in the future. Specifically:

1. Increase the awareness of the global dimension aspects to school to staff, pupils and the wider community across the whole school by having an International or Whole School Awards discussion within each school council meeting.
2. To continue our work of our pupils having an understanding of how poverty is not just in our local area, but a global issue and how their actions can help to reduce this. This is achieved through the annual practical work on the allotment donating produce to a local charity/homeless kitchen. More schools in the community of Southampton being involved would increase the understanding of sustainability and global reasoning in Southampton. This would be achieved through our school network, governors and promoting within city wide headteacher meetings.
3. Evaluating and sharing our cross-curricular theme weeks with our partner schools and local school community of Southampton.
4. To regularly evaluate the impact of international activities / the global dimension on teaching and learning throughout the School producing an annual written report.
5. To develop, maintain or join an initiative from the British Council in their Twinning Association or annual projects, for example, reading with schools around the world.
6. To continue to facilitate good internal and external communication about all International activities using and developing the School website, the International notice board, regular news letters and/or press releases to local media.
7. Continue to breathe, identify and embed the global dimension in new areas of the curriculum.
8. Continue to develop current and new global partnerships locally and in the wider world.

The Full International Schools Award was approved in 2023. The Polygon School will be awarded the accreditation for three years (September 2023- August 2026). Re-accreditation would begin in 2025/26.

6. Purposes

- To provide an informed awareness of countries, cultures and languages other than our own.
- To encourage greater involvement in environmental issues
- To develop curiosity about other cultures
- To enable pupils, staff and governors to experience daily life in other countries
- To promote the use of ICT in meaningful contexts for the development of communication skills
- To provide an added opportunity for the promotion of equal opportunities, racial equality and Citizenship

7. Guidelines:

- By having an international dimension as part of our ethos, we can provide pupils and staff with a wider variety of experiences both within, and in addition to our Curriculum.
- Develop links with schools locally and the wider world and complete global projects with them.
- Raise awareness of sustainability and environment issues other than those in our locality through joint projects. Build on the knowledge learnt from previous cpd opportunities, Level 1 International Teacher & Learning through Landscape projects.
- Encourage interest and motivation through the provision of first hand experiences of life locally and in another country
- Provide staff with opportunities to compare different teaching and learning styles.
- Raise awareness and appreciation of other environments and what is happening in the world.
- Develop cross-curricular activities with an international theme for all children. Partnering with other schools to share good practice and develop shared projects.

8. Strategic Improvement Plan

During their time at The Polygon School each pupil can expect to:

- Be taught by high quality teachers and support staff who are committed to their holistic development and who will provide interesting and varied learning experiences tailored to individual needs in a safe and nurturing environment.
- Participate in outdoor education and outdoor learning and experience learning in a wide range of settings.
- Learn about global, international, and national influences that affect the lives of all.
- Explore and learn about different cultures and experience some of the cultural activities within the city of Southampton to enable learning of their own communities.
- Be challenged to fulfil their potential, recognise their own self-worth, and make a positive contribution to society.
- Participate in the activities linked to being part of an International school.

9. Strategies Year 2023/2026 – until next re-accreditation

- To continue the Global Learning Programme funded project established in 2018 as an embedded International Schools Award activity - Food Boxes. Produce from our allotment is given annually to a local charity to serve in their soup kitchen, giving our pupils a first-hand experience/insight into how we can help those less fortunate in the local community.
ANNUAL
- To continue to be proactive in assisting our fellow Trust Schools or schools in the Southampton area to re-connect or become International Schools. The sharing of good practice (cross curricular theme weeks) will help them implement an international dimension within their schools.

- Increase the awareness of the global dimension aspects to school to staff, pupils and the wider community across the whole school by having an International or Whole School Awards discussion within each school council meeting.
- To regularly evaluate the impact of international activities / the global dimension on teaching and learning throughout the School producing an annual written report.
- To develop, maintain or join an initiative from the British Council in their Twinning Association or annual projects, for example, reading with schools around the world.
- To continue to seek further funding for projects to aid our international development within school, giving all pupils the opportunity to become global ambassadors of our school. Post Brexit the British Council now offers grants through the Turing Scheme. 'The Turing Scheme is the UK government's scheme to provide funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world. It supports Global Britain by providing an opportunity for UK organisations from the higher education, further education, vocational education and training and schools sectors to offer their students, learners and pupils life-changing experiences to study or work abroad.'
- In 2018/19 we were awarded a Global Development grant (£2500) for a project helping a local homeless shelter through our allotment produce.
- In 2019/20 we were awarded a grant by the British Council School Exchange Programme (£10,000) to enable a journey to our partner school in Iceland.
- We have placed a bid for a grant to enable another School Exchange Visit to happen in 2022. Secured £26,000
- Funding secured for 2022/2023 School Exchange visit to Iceland. Secured £26,000
- Funding applied for an international visit abroad in 2024/25
- Continued development of our curriculum and the global activities we offer. ONGOING
- To review the International Schools Policy annually
- Continued progression of Polygon accreditation.