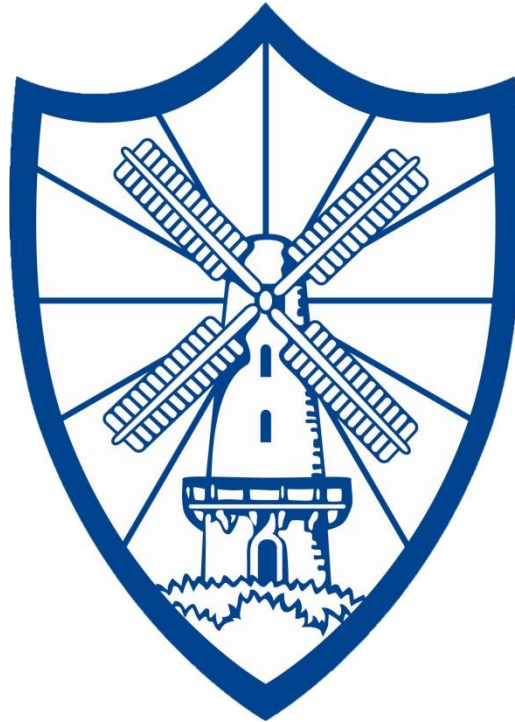


Meopham Community Academy



Community Links Guidelines

Next review date: March 2017



Community Links Guidelines

Rationale

At Meopham Community Academy we value the importance of developing strong links between the school and the local community. We consider that our pupils should be involved in the local community, and learn how they can make a contribution to their neighbourhood.

The school's partnership with parents, local residents, local businesses, public and voluntary services, will help the pupils understand and learn about how to be active citizens.

Aims

- To develop links with members of the local community.
- To understand the importance of a strong community.
- To visit and learn about local places of interest.
- To invite visitors from the local community in to develop pupils' learning.
- To learn how to be good citizens.
- To understand that our Academy is part of the local community and wider communities.
- To know that we can contribute to local and wider communities.

How will this be achieved?

1. By using local places of interest to develop pupils' learning
 - Meopham Library
 - Meopham Windmill
 - St John's Church, Meopham
 - Cygnets Leisure Centre
 - Lullingstone Roman Villa
 - Woodville Halls, Gravesend
2. By inviting local people in to develop pupils' learning
 - Parents supporting children in the classroom
 - PDSA volunteer
 - Local artists / musicians
 - Police
 - Sports coaching – cricket, tennis, rugby
 - Lion's Hospice
 - Network Rail – safety talk
 - Kent Fire and Rescue – safety talk



3. By inviting people to share in school events
 - Inviting Playpen pre-school to watch the Year R and 1 Christmas play, and Year R pupils watching their play
 - PTA events are held regularly for local people to attend
4. By making links with local businesses, charities and groups
 - Bartella's restaurant allowing us to use their car park for the Walk on Wednesday initiative.
 - Meopham Garden Association
 - Ellenor Lions Hospice and chYps Children's Hospice at Home
5. By providing our school grounds and building for events outside school hours
 - Premier Sports before and after school care in school hall every day
 - PTA events – Quiz Evenings, Fayres, Quiz Evenings – where all the community are welcome and posters are placed in the village to advertise the events
6. By welcoming other agencies into the school
 - School Nurse
 - Educational Psychologist
 - Educational Welfare Officer
 - Local education Officers
 - Foundation Stage Profile Auditors
7. By making links with local schools, colleges and universities
 - Meopham Secondary School
 - Teachers from local schools meet with us for INSET or to share good practice
 - Teachers attend twilight meetings and discuss new initiatives
 - Science workshops delivered by teachers from Gravesend Grammar School for Girls
 - Local schools send pupils to our school for work experience
 - Local universities and colleges send trainee teachers to our school for serial and block school experience
8. By involving local people in the daily running of the school
 - Governors
 - Parents help to organise and distribute the free fruit for KS1 pupils
 - Parent working groups
9. By publicising our school in the local area
 - School website provides information for current parents, prospective parents and local people
 - Articles in the Meopham Review tell local people what has been happening in the school



- May Fayre procession through the village creates a community spirit and involves people from other agencies (pre-schools, sports clubs, drama groups, etc)
- Our pupils enter local competitions, including designing the front cover of the Meopham Review at Christmas
- Informing the local newspaper of events within the school of interest to the local community

10. By participating in national and international charities and events

- Comic Relief and Sport Relief
- Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal
- Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal
- Children in Need