



Cookstown High School

International Policy

February 2016

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Ethos and Rationale

The ethos of Cookstown High School calls for respect and celebration of the uniqueness of individuals as well as the development of independent learners and active citizens. The International Policy is a key factor in the promotion of these aspects of the ethos.

Global issues are an increasingly important part of the lives of our pupils and other families living in a world where economies are increasingly interdependent and global communication is a daily reality. Our pupils have access to the internet and increased opportunity to travel and watch news stories from around the world, as they develop and follow for example, international sporting events in real time. The global dimension should be reflected in the attitudes and values of our pupils, the ethos of the school and the taught curriculum. As a school we have a commitment to both gender and racial equality and this policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- CRED Policy
- Learning & Teaching Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

All of these policies will be interpreted in a manner which is consistent with the school ethos.

Definition of the "Global Dimension":

By 'global dimension', we mean (very broadly) 'exploring the world's interconnections'. With a global dimension to their education, learners have a chance to engage with complex global issues and explore the links between their own lives and people, places and issues throughout the world. Education plays a vital role in helping children and young people recognise their responsibilities as citizens of the global community. It equips them with the skills required to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.

By including the global dimension in teaching, links can easily be made between local and global issues, and young people are given the opportunity to:

- critically examine their own values and attitudes
- appreciate the similarities between people everywhere, and learn to value diversity
- understand the global context of their local lives
- develop skills that will enable them to combat injustice, prejudice and discrimination.

Such knowledge, skills and understanding enable young people to make informed decisions about how they can play an active role in their local and global community.

Aims

- To embed the global dimension within the school curriculum, engaging pupils to better understand and celebrate their own cultural identity and to foster respect for other cultures, languages and religions.
- To prepare pupils for life in a diverse global society and work in a competitive global economy.
- To work with education partners globally to achieve shared educational goals.

Objectives

- To continue to integrate the global dimension into the whole school curriculum by raising staff awareness of valid curriculum links.
- To develop a strong awareness of similarities and differences in lifestyles and culture in a range of other countries.
- To involve staff (teaching and non-teaching), pupils and the wider community in the development of contacts with our global partners.
- To further develop relationships with partner schools with a focus on enriching the whole school curriculum and communication via ICT.
- To research involvement in international programmes, that further develop or meet the policy aims.
- To promote international education and vocational links.
- To extend the benefits of the global dimension to our network of feeder primary schools.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors

Work to set the context for levelling the international dimension by evaluating the ethos of the school and supporting engagement in international related activity. Work to ensure the school policies support the international dimension and global awareness. The BoG will work with the SLT to ensure curriculum support of the international dimension and global awareness.

Senior Leadership Team

Promote the international dimension and global awareness in their leadership role through support for global education initiatives and by facilitating opportunities for pupils as appropriate. SLT will work with the BoG to ensure curriculum support for the global dimension and international awareness.

International Coordinator

Identify and celebrate opportunities which allow the promotion of global dimension and international awareness amongst the whole school community. The co-ordinator will lead in the development of curricular, sporting and cultural links with other schools, as appropriate.

Teachers and Support staff

Promote tolerance, understanding and cultural awareness through learning activities, as appropriate. Staff will work to promote international understanding and the need for international co-operation.

Pupils

Pupils at all levels in the school will engage in learning opportunities with a global dimension. Pupils will engage in activities which develop links with other countries and other schools.