

## Outside Agency Policy



This policy has the School's Mission Statement and Aims at its heart.

At Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School, we value the importance of developing strong links between the school and local, regional and national communities. Within Citizenship education, through assemblies, concerts and special events, we involve our pupils in the local community, so that they learn how to participate in a practical way in the life and concerns of their neighbourhood and the community. Working with parents, local residents, the business community, public services, and voluntary services teaches the children to become active citizens.

### Aims

1 To help children today to prepare for the future.

2 For all of us to care about our school and the environment.

3 For our children, our parents and our staff all to work together.

4 To acknowledge that our neighbours are important to us.

5 To accept that Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School is not a building in isolation, but is situated within the community of Halsall, Ormskirk and the surrounding area, which is part of the larger community of West Lancashire. It is important that Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School, its children, staff and governors are recognised as part of the local and wider community.

To continue to develop links with:

- parents
- our neighbours
- the church
- local Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- pre-school groups
- the press
- industry and businesses
- other agencies
- voluntary/charitable organisations.

### Parents

The 'open door' policy at Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School encourages parents' interest in their child's

education and in school life as an adult helper or member of the Friends of Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School. We recognise that parents are our principal contact with the local community. They communicate what is happening in our school to the wider community, as well as promoting Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School's reputation.

### Our Neighbours

We invite our neighbours to Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School for a variety of functions, such as Summer Fairs, Harvest Festival, Carnival, Bonfire plays, concerts etc. We always let them know what is happening at the school, through liaison with the community through our weekly newsletter and the parish magazine. We liaise with our adjacent neighbours as well, and, in turn, the neighbours help to monitor the security of our building. We have very good links with the local Halsall residents with whom we work on a number of local projects.

### Local Primary Schools

It is essential to develop links with other local Primary schools. This is done through:

- sporting events
- informal contacts
- cluster INSET
- Academic Council
- meetings
- Curriculum linked activities - joint music events

ICT, music and Foreign Language Education

Teachers, parents and volunteers who help to run sporting clubs are also very much involved in links with local primary schools.

### Other Primary Schools

Through the Internet, we have established links with a number of schools via e-mail and letter writing. Children have friends at these schools with whom they correspond.

### Secondary Schools

At Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School, we feel it is important to develop links with local Secondary schools for two reasons:

- to ease the transition from Year 6 to Year 7
- to develop subject links between subject leaders.

### Local Sports Clubs

We are working towards the local Football Club being able to use the school playing field every week, with many matches taking place, involving children from the school of different age groups. We would like to develop good

relationships between the school and members of the club and to encourage two-way help and support. The school is also venue for Brownies, Guides, Scouts and sports groups.

#### Pre-school

At Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School, we have an Early Years Coordinator who liaises with parents of pre-school children, nurseries and playgroups. We have our very own Smiley Faces pre-school group and Halsall nursery is situated within the school.

#### Press

Our Head Teacher is responsible for contact with the local press. This involves notifying the local paper of special events and activities taking place at Halsall ST. Cuthbert's Primary School, communicating whatever information is required. This liaison celebrates our school's achievements, and establishes a good relationship with the local press.

#### Our weekly newsletter / Website

Our weekly newsletter, both written and available on line through the schools website, constitutes an excellent form of communication between the school and the local community. It provides the school with an opportunity to inform parents, governors and local residents, about what is going on. It also provides links between the school and local organisations, such as the local Church.

#### Industry/Businesses

The Head Teacher and chair of PTFA initiates contacts with local industries and businesses. These are linked, wherever possible, to curriculum topics and school improvement. Visitors from industry are invited into school, or visits arranged to local businesses. Donations of resources from local business have been and continue to be gratefully received. Through the development of business links and visits, the children at Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School begin to understand the way the world of work functions. This understanding can be extended through role-play linked to topics at Key Stage 1, for example Healthy Snack Café, Pet Shop, Travel Agent, Recycling Centre, etc. At Key Stage 2, the teacher responsible for PSHE and Citizenship organises events, such as an Industry Day or Mini Enterprise. These exercises give children experience of different jobs and the opportunity to talk to, and work with, adults from various industries, occupations and businesses.

#### Local Environment Issues

Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School is aware of the importance of protecting, respecting and making the most of our local community environment. We also have links with the National Trust and pupils from the school have been involved in planting projects. We also run a compost recycling scheme with school.

#### Other Agencies

We feel it is crucial at Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School to consolidate links with other people, who support, or work in or with, the school. These include:

- School Nurse
- Educational Welfare Officer
- Road Safety Officer and crossing patrol officers.
- Police, including the Police Schools' Liaison Officer

- Educational Psychologist
- The local LEA and Action Groups
- The local Church
- Support staff from other schools
- Support staff from the Health Service
- Local Education Officers
- Social Services.
- Child and family consultation service
- Special Educational Needs specialists

These links vary from time to time depending upon need and circumstance. Halsall St. Cuthbert's Primary School is a church school that is part of a wider community, and the links we forge with that wider community help to strengthen and support the education we provide for all children.