

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy

Overview

- English in Chester aims to be a socially responsible organisation in all aspects of its operations and activities.
- As the school develops, we recognise the need to communicate these principles and strategies clearly to staff, students and other stakeholders. Our commitment extends to our practices as a school, to staff, students, agents, suppliers and the local community, and includes the principles by which we engage with the outside world.
- This policy is accessible to all of our stakeholders on our website and all students and staff are made aware of the policy via their induction handbooks. The policy is available to read in full in the common room, staff room and office.

Introduction

- CSR is a process which aims to embrace responsibility for the company's actions and encourage a positive impact through its activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities and stakeholders.
- CSR policy functions as a built-in, self-regulating mechanism whereby a business monitors and ensures its active compliance as far as possible with the spirit of the law, ethical standards, and international norms on a voluntary basis.
- English in Chester is fully committed to the principle of CSR and aspires to embed its core principles, where practicable, into its policies and practices, to the benefit of staff, students, partners and suppliers, as well as the wider community.

The school's active CSR strategy

The school's CSR policy has 5 key strands:

Community

- We endeavour to interact positively and proactively with our community.
- Through our links with the Volunteer Bureau, students have access to a range of volunteering opportunities within Chester.
- We are in discussion with local ESOL organisations and consortiums to identify areas where our expertise can contribute to capacity building for local community ESOL projects.

Environmental Sustainability

- The school is working towards improved digital technology in its classrooms through the use of projectors to reduce the need for paper-based resources. Staff are encouraged to minimise photocopying and to use double sided and reduced sized copies where possible.
- All waste paper is recycled or reused as scrap paper. E mails are only printed when necessary. Plastic and glass is recycled throughout the school, and the school residence has a recycling scheme in place for the residents, overseen by the House Manager.
- The school is working towards using only environmentally friendly cleaning products in the school.
- All staff and students are encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school whenever practicably possible. To encourage this, the school will provide secure parking for bikes, and there is a staff shower available to use if required.
- The school buys its electricity from Ecotricity, the world's first Green electricity company.
- The school aspires towards a Green Tourism Business award to recognise its work in this area, and to enable the school to learn and monitor best practice from other environmentally friendly tourism sector organisations.

Fairtrade

- The school purchases and uses Fairtrade products wherever possible, in particular coffee, tea, sugar and chocolate.
- The school provides Fairtrade products at its meetings where feasible, such as tea/coffee/biscuits.
- The school promotes Fairtrade through classroom and social activities in the school.
- The school aspires to become recognized as a Fairtrade College.

Development

- The school has adopted Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) as its charity, the world's leading independent international development organisation that offers volunteers the chance to work abroad to fight poverty in developing countries.
- We host meetings of the local VSO group, and hold events at the school which staff and students are encouraged to attend.
- The school actively raises money to support VSO.

Education

- We will encourage discussion of these issues in the classroom alongside many other current issues, and, where appropriate, will develop materials.
- The school also has a CSR working group that has looked at how the school can develop in this area.

The school has established a steering group involving both staff and students, which discusses and monitors the school's CSR policy and commitments.

Policy reviewed June 2018