

Arundel Court Academy Community Engagement Policy and Plan

Introduction

Establishing a supportive learning community, including the University of Chichester, our academies and their communities, is at the core of the vision and ethos of the University of Chichester Academy Trust. Arundel Court Primary Academy promotes great community links that maximises the benefit to pupils and students, their families and the wider academy community.

1. **Objective:** To ensure that Arundel Court continues to be at the heart of the local community, nurturing and nurtured by positive local and strategic partnerships with parents and the local community, other schools, providers and local, regional and national stakeholders.

2. **Audiences:** Good community relations are promoted by identifying, getting to know and working with key community audiences and influencers:
 - Academy parents, pupils, staff, visiting professionals
 - Prospective parents/ pupils/ staff, staff at linked schools
 - Members of Parliament *e.g. Stephen Morgan MP (ex-chair of the old Junior school governing body)*
 - Local residents, business leaders, county/ borough councillors and officers
 - Local voluntary groups, children's centres, family services and community workers
 - Faith organisations and leaders
 - Local media *e.g. Portsmouth News*
 - Former pupils and their families *e.g. invite past alumni to newly built school, attending St Edmunds' Year 7 open morning.*

3. **Messages:**

Many of the activities and events outlined below happen at Arundel Court during the normal course of school life.

Clear opportunities are offered to the community to get involved with the school and make a difference to its young people.

- Arundel Court:
 - offers a **welcome** to the community *e.g. Open door policy*
 - exchanges **information** with the community *e.g. Website & Facebook*
 - <http://www.arundelcourt.com/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ArundelCourt>
 - is a strong **presence** in the community

- encourages the **involvement** of the community in academy life e.g. See *website*
- is a community asset and makes a **contribution** through volunteer action, learning opportunities and availability of facilities e.g. *reading volunteers from the community including Portsmouth University.*
- **represents** the school's interest through involvement with key local stakeholders and groups e.g. *Heart of Portsmouth cluster meetings, central hub meetings (multi agency)*
- shows **commitment** to the ethos of community, through its own community values e.g. *Respect, Safety, Independence, Teamwork, High Expectations and Included are our core values and can be seen throughout the school.*

Our Community Engagement Policy is reviewed biannually by our Local Governing Body.

4. Key Programmes

4.1 Welcome – internal school events

Plans:

- a) Continue to use Marvellous Me, Facebook and 'Text to Parents' to inform the community about school events to which members of the community are welcomed, for example, school fetes, concerts, open evenings. (The school may host community-led events.)
- b) Look for opportunities to add special one-off events to the programme that involve input from the community. Invite ex pupils and ex members of staff to school events e.g. school productions and opening of the new build.
- c) Continue to nurture relationships with other local schools. Invite groups from feeder schools for workshops, e.g. moderation of greater depth writing

Examples of these are:

- Facebook
- Website including links for our community with outside agencies
- Newsletters
- Marvellous Me
- PTA
- New build consultation
- Parents evenings

- Parent days- invite parents in usually for Topic
- Assemblies e.g. Governor Shield assemblies
- Parent questionnaires
- Sports days
- School production
- Community events e.g. Bonfire night
- Parent workshops run by inclusion team
- Church visits e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter
- Charity projects
- Outside visitors e.g. Wagging Tales, Open Box
- Working in partnership with other school e.g. Portsmouth Education Partnership

4.2 Information - School and Community exchange

Plans:

- a) Create a community presence on the school website and offer (selected) community stakeholders the opportunity to share statements about their involvement with the school on the Community page of the school website.

TASK- Create a general enquiry Form for the community on our website e.g. <https://www.e4education.co.uk/e4econnect>

Researching into better communication with our community using E4Education Connect
<https://www.e4education.co.uk/e4econnect>

- b) Publicise link to the Trust on-line survey inviting views and comment with hard copy contact sheets available from school office.

TASK-Forward comments to Senior Communications & PR Officer, University of Chichester Multi Academy Trust

4.3 Presence – community communications and events

Ensure a visible, positive presence of pupils in the community through participation in external community events.

Plans:

- a) Continue to identify opportunities to enrich local community programmes, e.g. music groups; work displays, dance and drama performances

TASK: The Glee choir to attend events to perform e.g. Carol Concerts

Arundel Court Football and Netball teams to continue to represent us at all sporting tournaments.

- b) Liaise with key community stakeholders to provide opportunities for student ambassadors to attend external events as school representatives, e.g. school council functions

TASK: Attend Pupil Voice meetings for the school council

Continue to use Up 4 It for year 5 & 6 (Portsmouth University)

Attend the annual Author competition run by the school library service

- c) Ensure a school presence in community communications and at community venues

TASK Use of PCSO's to visit the school on a regular basis

Post information about events and achievements to community social media channels e.g. Arundel Court Facebook

Advertise Nursery provision through a school banner

Develop strong relationship between academy and local media, issue press releases with photographs, invite media to events, offer professional comment on topical issues to help with education stories e.g. all major news events are forward to the Trust to be shared on their website e.g. Mile a day

4.4 Involvement – harnessing community skills and interest

- a) Facilitate involvement in educational visits, work experience (e.g. EBP), potential sponsorship and special events

TASK: Look for opportunities for continued sponsorship e.g. breakfast club, school resources, Wave 105 Cash 4 Kids

4.5 Contribution – community action, widening participation, lifelong learning, facility hire

Plans

- a) Recognise the Community contribution of pupils and (importantly) staff outside the Academy gates

TASKS Continue to include in Assembly announcements
Add into the Newsletter e.g. Governor Contribution
Recognition on community website page

- b) Aim to be a focal point for lifelong learning and provide educational opportunities for parents and carers, e.g. family learning workshops and courses see also e) below.

TASKS

Consider offering the NEW school as a venue for local opportunities
Include opportunities offered by UoC

- c) Provide extended day programmes for pupils to offer a broad range of sports, arts, cultural, technological and recreational activities and include lunchtime enrichment provision; and study support

TASKS

Develop our involvement with the UoC e.g. Forest School, Sports facilities, STEM

- d) Make school facilities available for hire to the community out-of-hours, e.g. meeting rooms, assembly hall, sports facilities, practical rooms

Tasks: Consider for the future with NEW Build
Set hire costs: measure rooms, indicate maximum use, photograph, check insurances
Establish booking and payment system
Publicise, e.g. on website, leaflet at Reception

4.6 Representation – key stakeholders, community development groups

Plans

- a) Establish one-to-one relationships between Academy leaders and key stakeholders, e.g. MP, local council leader, Heads of feeder schools, local press.
- b) Represent the Academy's interests on local development or community groups and highlight/offer support and resources.

- c) Offer presentations to key local groups about Academy ethos, vision, plans and achievements e.g. parish/town councils, combined faith groups, school cluster groups, community fora.

Tasks: Identify key local groups
Task appropriate staff, pupils, governors or Trust/University representatives
Clarify academy objectives
Clarify academy-community offer
Prepare and brand presentation material
Consider business cards