

Davison CE High School for Girls International School Policy

At Davison, our International activities are planned actions, delivered across different curriculum subjects as part of normal teaching, not as add-ons or confined to one subject. All teachers, across all subjects, aim to:

- Increase knowledge and respect for other countries and cultures
- Increase knowledge of global issues
- Increase cross-cultural communication skills (including but not limited to language learning)

We are very proud that we have been awarded the **International School Award** by the British Council for our outstanding achievements in developing and embedding the global dimension within the Davison curriculum.

The award lasts for three years; we first achieved the ISA in 2005 and have renewed every 3 years with our most recent reaccreditation in 2016 under the responsibility of Lindsey Fatcher, our retired colleague from the MFL dept. Her work has been continued in 2017 by Becky Sellens working in partnership with Gary Mitchell, who joined us in 2018. In their respective curriculum areas of RS, EAL and MFL they have pushed forward the whole school ethos of welcome, respect, support and understanding for all countries of the world and the importance of all students learning to take their place in the world as global citizens.

The British Council congratulated Davison for embedding the international dimension so effectively into our school through 'creative and very imaginative international activities' and praised how we "have continued to embed the international dimension into your school since your last accreditation through a wealth of activities including immersion days, visits, hosting, collaborative projects, special events and generally looking for opportunities to involve internationalism."

Our Davison students themselves and the strong international links at Davison CE School for Girls truly reflect the growing multi-cultural nature of our town. We have 144 EAL students, representing 30 different languages spoken as their mother tongue. Our International Policy confirms our commitment to providing opportunities for all girls to engage with each other: both the international students in our own community and those worldwide. This exposes everyone to different social, cultural and educational experiences.

Teachers in all curriculum areas of the school value the opportunity to develop the global dimension and international ethos at Davison, viewing the school's global dimension as an opportunity to extend our pupils' views of the world and help them to explore their perceptions. Teachers also appreciate that our international links help our pupils to recognise connections and interdependencies and to think critically about different cultural, economic and political perspectives. English, Geography, RS, Dance, PE, Citizenship, Science, PD, Music, MFL, History, Textiles, Art and DT cover issues such as diversity, conflict resolution, human rights, global interdependence, social justice, sustainable development, understand core British values, respect for our own culture, country and heritage and the culture, heritage, country and languages of others.

We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn, achieve and take their place as global citizens. The school provides many opportunities through colour family time activities, voluntary work and fund raising for local and global charities, which seek to make a difference in the world and embed this global perspective in our students.

Aims

- To provide an informed awareness of countries, cultures and languages other than our own
- To encourage greater involvement in environmental issues
- To develop curiosity about other cultures
- To enable children, staff and governors to experience daily life in other countries
- To provide an added opportunity for the promotion of equal opportunities, racial equality, community cohesion and Citizenship

Objectives

By having an international dimension as part of our ethos, we can provide children and staff with a wider variety of enrichment experiences. Our objectives are:

- To work towards maintaining the International School Award
- To continue to develop links with schools in Europe and Africa
- To develop a variety of global learning partnerships
- To continue to welcome to our school teachers and pupils from other countries
- To raise awareness and appreciation of environment issues both locally and globally
- To further encourage interest and motivation through the provision of first hand experiences of life in another country
- To continue to promote communication with international partners through letters and emails
- To provide staff with opportunities to compare different teaching and learning styles
- To continue the development of cross-curricular activities with an international theme for all children
- To continue to involve our school community in the international dimension

The impact of international learning activities at Davison on pupils is perhaps best summed up by one of our former pupils, Claudia Harris, (who worked with our partner school in Ghana during her time at Davison): **“Before I came to Ghana I thought this trip was all about me. But now I realise it’s about what I can do for others.”** The outward looking, globally minded ethos at Davison C.E High School is embedded in our Christian vision and values. We equip our students for life and “to flourish, to live life in all its fullness as God intended.” As a church school, our students are “free to choose any faith or none” whilst “we reflect on what God has done for us through Jesus.” The Christian ethos encourages us to: “model his work through our Christian values of thankfulness, forgiveness and endurance, trust, hope and friendship. In our school we strive to reflect these values in the way we treat one another, conduct ourselves and care for those in our community and around the world.”

Rebecca Sellens, 2019