



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

Brettenham Park
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7PH
Website: www.obh.co.uk

Public Benefit Policy



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL SCHOOL

PUBLIC BENEFIT POLICY

Introduction

This Public Benefit Policy has been prepared by the Governors (the Trustees of Old Buckenham Hall (Brettenham) Educational Trust Ltd) of the School (OBH) so as to ensure and demonstrate that the Charity remains eligible for Charity status.

Objects and Activities

The Object of the Trust is the education of children up to age 13. The Charity's principal activity is to operate a preparatory and pre-preparatory boarding and day school for boys and girls.

Public Benefit Strategy

The Governors have agreed that the strategies are to:

- Widen pupil access to the school so that children who could not otherwise attend can benefit from the education provided;
- Continue the Charity's tradition of providing public benefit by sharing the School's resources with the local community;
- Comply with the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements.

The activities providing public benefit are summarised below:

1. Education

The education provided continues to be a charitable purpose for the public good as high standards are achieved: Each year almost all our children gain entry to the senior schools of their choice and a significant number are awarded scholarships. OBH also excels in many other areas, many of which are not examined, such as sport, music and drama.

2. Savings to the Taxpayer

The taxpayer receives an indirect benefit as the parents who pay fees for their childrens' education also contribute to state education through taxation; this without

taking advantage of it. As the average spend per pupil in the state sector is approximately £6,000, as a school of approximately 200 pupils our parents save the taxpayer approximately £1.8m per year.

3. Bursaries

Historically OBH has not had any bursary funds to assist parents who encounter financial hardship whilst their child is at the school. Any financial assistance has to be provided out of annual income. It is expected that this situation will continue, but the school's resources for offering fee assistance will be supplemented by any funds raised through donations and so enabling, so far as funds are available, awards to be made on a child's entry to assist parents on low income who otherwise would not be able to afford the fees. Such awards would be means tested and may be up to 100% of the day fee together, in certain circumstances, with additional assistance to cover boarding where this would be appropriate, and associated costs such as uniforms and school trips.

4. Royal National Children's Foundation (RNCF)

In addition to providing bursaries on entry and financial hardships as described above, the Governors also offer a free place to certain children when so approached by RNCF (previously JET). RNCF is a charity which seeks to place children in independent schools, usually boarding, where due to their family circumstances being so traumatic they would suffer if they continued at a state school.

5. Other Forms of Fee Assistance

As well as bursaries, the school also provides other forms of fee assistance, including scholarships and sibling and staff discounts.

6. Social Impact

As well as educating our pupils in the classroom, OBH is also keen to raise pupils' awareness of local, national and global issues and the attributes of those who make the greatest contribution to society. This we achieve through a programme involving lectures from visiting speakers, visits, attendance at local church services and by raising funds for charities, often through sponsored activities.

7. Community Links

OBH continues to maintain strong links with the local community and efforts are focused on providing the local community with appropriate access to our grounds, buildings and the expertise of our staff. We keep in mind the benefits to all parties of good relations between the School and the wider community beyond the confines of Brettenham Park.

With all the activities we plan we try to ensure that a normal life of the School is borne in mind in order to minimise disturbance of our day to day activities. We also need always to be mindful of the safety and security of the children in our charge. Our primary purpose as a boarding and day school is never forgotten.

Such activities include the following:

We continue to use Thorpe Morieux Church for our Sunday services during term time. This raises the attendance numbers considerably and swells church income through the offertory.

Our collaborative projects with Beyton Middle School, encouraging the development of the talents of children at both schools have continued as have the larger scale sporting events organised by our respective sports departments and including: athletics, cricket, rounders, swimming and tennis.

Brettenham Park Cricket Club: The Club uses around 2 acres of the Park for their 'home' cricket ground and their pavilion. The Club plays in two local cricket leagues and many visiting teams have scheduled access to the Park on match days.

Brettenham Park Squash Club: Membership and carefully controlled court bookings rights are given throughout the year to applicants from the local area. Members pay a small annual subscription and then pay as they play for lighting through a timed meter system.

Brettenham Park Swimming Club: Membership is open to individuals and families from surrounding villages for the use of our open-air, heated pool from May to September. The club is run by volunteers from outside the school who provide their own trained supervision for the club's swimming times. This helps to ensure that health, safety and security issues are carefully monitored.

OBH Sailing Boat Hire: The School's sailing dinghies are available for hire at low cost during the Easter and Summer seasons. The cost covers maintenance outgoings for the boats.

Guy Fawkes Night: The long established and very popular annual bonfire night celebration yields proceeds from gate receipts which are shared between the Brettenham Village Fund and the School's nominated charities. Attendance by members of the School, their families and members of the general public is estimated at several hundred every year.

The Christmas Craft Fair takes place in November raising money for local charities and the Parish of Thorpe Morieux.

Picnic in the Park: This annual event takes place in July and approximately 150 members of the local public have lunch and spend the afternoon in Brettenham Park. A marquee is provided by the School to give cover for music ensembles and entertainment events.

8. Reporting

The Governors are aware of the importance, not only for the charity to provide opportunities to benefit, but also for it to demonstrate the public benefits so provided. The following procedures are in place:

- Public Benefit is an agenda item for each Governors' meeting and the minutes will record such considerations;
- A public benefit register is maintained recording the ways in which the School provides Public Benefit;
- The Governors in their annual report to the accounts confirm that due regard is paid to the Charity Commission's Guidance and they refer to the objectives and achievements in providing benefit to the public; and
- Whilst the Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that the School complies with its public benefit obligations, David Sewell has been nominated to oversee the School's public benefit activities and report to the Board through the Governance and Compliance Committee.

M Shallow
Chair of Governors

26th November 2011