

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

CHARITIES POLICY

1. Rationale

Shimna Integrated College, itself a body with charitable status, believes that charities have an important role in the life of the college, in respect of both our educational objectives and fundraising by our students, staff and parents/guardians. An important part of our purpose is to enable young people to develop empathy with others, and to act to bring about change, whether in the life of another individual or more broadly in social or international relationships. Our charitable activities will have an educational purpose, whether or not fundraising is involved. In the selection of projects for fundraising, the college will give priority to those which further the knowledge and understanding of our students.

2. Context

Because our college community unites students, staff and parents/guardians from a wide range of religious, social and ethnic backgrounds, organisers should bear in mind that charitable activities which might be appropriate in other settings may not be appropriate in our specific integrated context. Alternatively, a charitable activity may be appropriate, but we need to acknowledge that not everyone in the college community will wish to support it.

3. Strategy

Some degree of strategic planning is necessary in order to give appropriate focus to current charitable activities and to ensure that future plans do not overlap to the detriment of all plans. Strategic planning is also necessary in order to achieve balance in our activities. The planning team shall decide on which charities to support each academic year and will have special regard to issues related to integration in its consideration of proposals.

4. Guidelines

Staff, students, departments, form classes, clubs or other groups within the college may make a proposal for a charitable activity to the planning team using the appropriate form. Such a proposal should normally be part of the summer term planning for the year ahead, although in special circumstances such as a response to an emergency, mid-year proposals may be made.

Staff taking a leadership role in a charitable activity should arrange appropriate publicity for the students' efforts, and ensure that funds collected are handled in accordance with the college's financial norms and accountability. The staff organising fundraising should ensure a prompt handover of funds to the relevant charity. If the college finance office is to handle money collected, please give staff good notice.

No student should take part in door-to-door collecting on behalf of the college or any associated charity. Sponsored fasts (self-denial of food) are not an appropriate fundraising mechanism for school age children, nor is any activity which might be dangerous. At all times, college policies on risk assessment, health and safety and child protection must be paramount.

The Board of Governors agrees with, and fully supports the contents and implementation of this policy.