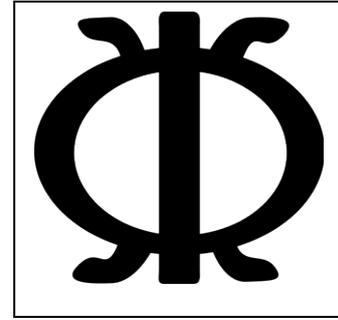


AC

ARUN COURT

THERAPY & EDUCATION



‘Resilience and Perseverance lead to success’

Community Relations Policy

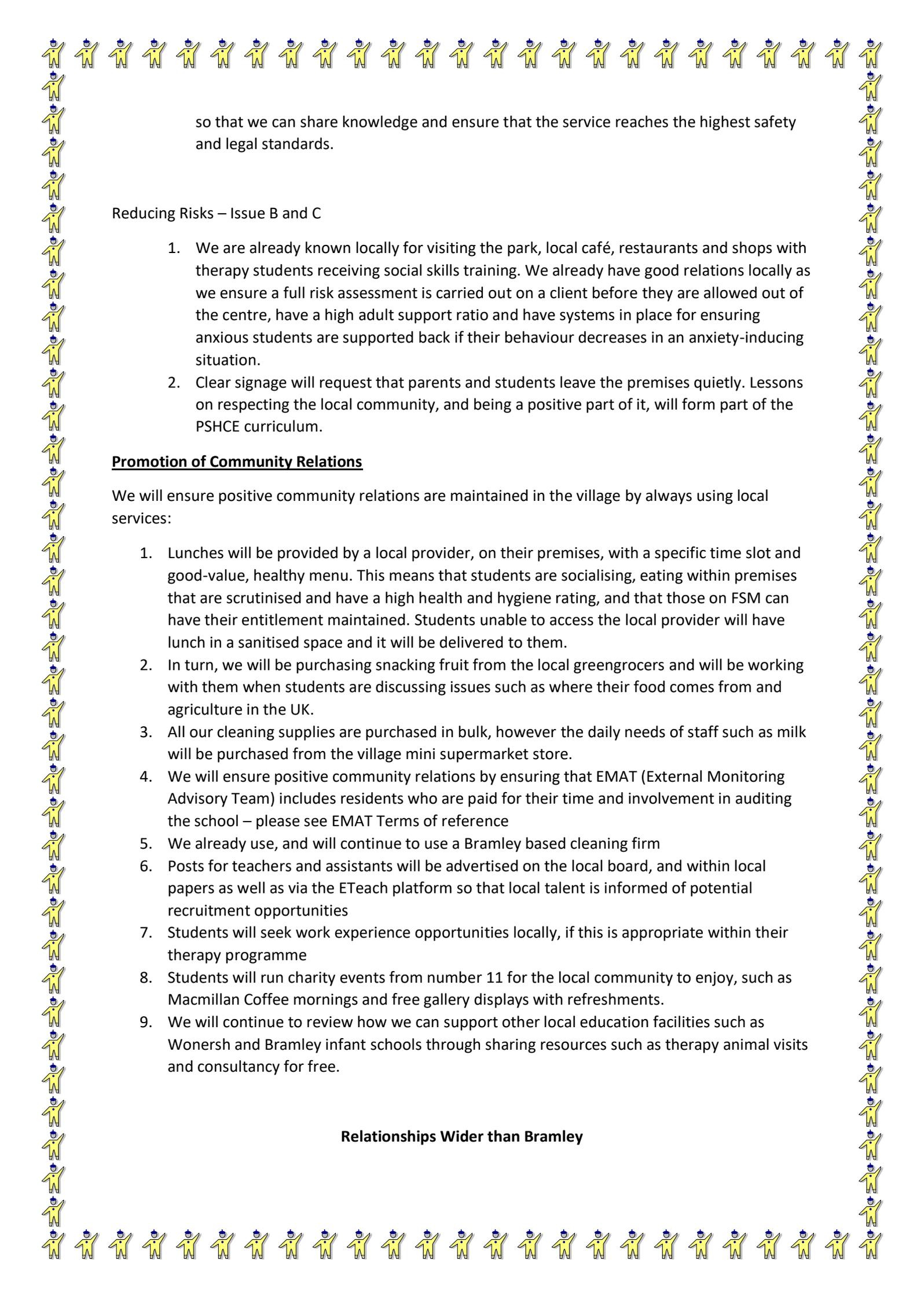
The aim of this policy is to lay out how Arun Court School will enhance the local community and how it will reduce potential disturbance to residents. As a company Big Bear Bespoke Education Ltd seeks to promote positive community relations wherever it operates and to monitor complaints, taking them seriously. The policy also seeks to compliment the curriculum policies by highlighting areas and opportunities for ensuring children are a part of wider communities and the world community.

Potential Risks

- A. Risks to the local community include difficulties for residents with parking and road blocking at drop off and student collection.
- B. Noise from students as they travel around the village or incidences of poor behaviour
- C. Noise from students / parents as they exit the area

Reducing the risks – Issue A

1. A drop off zone will be created in the car park area where taxi’s can park and drop off students without causing difficulty to residents. Staff will need to park in the library car park or other designated parking areas within the village.
2. A staggered system of drop off will be in place with arrivals at 9:30 and 10:00 , and departures similarly organised. These times are outside of hours when local residents are departing for work and are when the local car park areas are known to be sparsely populated. Collection will be at 4pm and 4:30 pm respectively. Other local schools all finish by 3:15pm, so our later collection will reduce extra pedestrian and vehicular traffic through the village at pre-identified busy periods.
3. In time, as part of the school development programme, we are seeking to buy a mini bus and operate a collection and drop off for students living locally, as many private sector schools do – this will enable students to be escorted by staff they already know, and will further reduce costs to the Local Education Authority as operating a designated school bus is much more cost effective than the outsourcing of taxi services. In turn having a school bus will reduce our operating costs for educational visits. Establishing this project will involve us working with other independent schools locally, who have a bus service,



so that we can share knowledge and ensure that the service reaches the highest safety and legal standards.

Reducing Risks – Issue B and C

1. We are already known locally for visiting the park, local café, restaurants and shops with therapy students receiving social skills training. We already have good relations locally as we ensure a full risk assessment is carried out on a client before they are allowed out of the centre, have a high adult support ratio and have systems in place for ensuring anxious students are supported back if their behaviour decreases in an anxiety-inducing situation.
2. Clear signage will request that parents and students leave the premises quietly. Lessons on respecting the local community, and being a positive part of it, will form part of the PSHCE curriculum.

Promotion of Community Relations

We will ensure positive community relations are maintained in the village by always using local services:

1. Lunches will be provided by a local provider, on their premises, with a specific time slot and good-value, healthy menu. This means that students are socialising, eating within premises that are scrutinised and have a high health and hygiene rating, and that those on FSM can have their entitlement maintained. Students unable to access the local provider will have lunch in a sanitised space and it will be delivered to them.
2. In turn, we will be purchasing snacking fruit from the local greengrocers and will be working with them when students are discussing issues such as where their food comes from and agriculture in the UK.
3. All our cleaning supplies are purchased in bulk, however the daily needs of staff such as milk will be purchased from the village mini supermarket store.
4. We will ensure positive community relations by ensuring that EMAT (External Monitoring Advisory Team) includes residents who are paid for their time and involvement in auditing the school – please see EMAT Terms of reference
5. We already use, and will continue to use a Bramley based cleaning firm
6. Posts for teachers and assistants will be advertised on the local board, and within local papers as well as via the ETeach platform so that local talent is informed of potential recruitment opportunities
7. Students will seek work experience opportunities locally, if this is appropriate within their therapy programme
8. Students will run charity events from number 11 for the local community to enjoy, such as Macmillan Coffee mornings and free gallery displays with refreshments.
9. We will continue to review how we can support other local education facilities such as Wonerish and Bramley infant schools through sharing resources such as therapy animal visits and consultancy for free.

Relationships Wider than Bramley



Through our consultancy work Big Bear Bespoke Education Ltd, of which Arun Court School is a part, has established many good connections with schools in Surrey, both in the private and state sector.

In terms of supporting cases of anxiety and mental health needs in Surrey state schools we have a small set aside fund each year for **free outreach**. This means that the LEA can direct us to support local schools with the development of mental health support programmes and behaviour support for specific student cases. We have a real mission to help children BEFORE they reach a level of mental health need that meets the requirements of a specialist placement.

Through our school membership of the National Trust, English Heritage and the RSPB we ensure that students visit and support areas of importance within the UK. We place a high importance on geography within the curriculum so that students have a national and global perspective linked to politics, economics and environmental issues. Philosophy, morality and ethics are used to enhance student's understanding of religion, race and community cohesion along with the established Surrey religious education syllabus which the school follows. We visit local sites of religious and cultural interest such as the Aldershot Buddhist Temple and Woking mosque.

We hold several events each year as a company which bring together students who have after school tuition, at home tuition or therapy, governesses and those who attend Arun Court School which provide extra opportunities to feel a part of the wider Big Bear Bespoke Education Ltd family.

World Relationships

The company already sponsors two Moon Bears in Vietnam and supports World Vision through child sponsorship and larger projects. These links enable us to further enhance the curriculum with real letters, artefacts and opportunities to widen the student's horizons.

We are building links with schools in various parts of Scandinavia where we have established professional links already – sharing best practice and educational approaches.