



**POLICY (Number: Pii)
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH**

Community Involvement and Outreach at Somerset House

At Somerset House, we accept that the school exists as a bubble of privilege in a country where great injustice has led to the advancement of some over others. We believe that it is important to embrace this reality openly and do what is possible to play our role in being part of healing our country. We see our involvement with other schools, communities or causes as a way to achieve this.

Purpose

- To expose our children to the realities of our country so that they may grow up knowing that the world they experience is vastly different from that experienced by many people in South Africa.
- To build relationships across racial, cultural, religious and economic divides to allow our children to develop greater understanding and awareness of others.
- To assist or contribute to improving the well-being of those in need where possible.

Outreach across the school

- Age appropriate programmes are encouraged in the different sectors of the school.
- The emphasis should be on building relationships rather than giving assistance as this can just reinforce the status of “haves” and “have nots”.
- More individual initiative based activities are encouraged in the senior grade. The intention here is to help children understand that making a difference is not limited by age or position, but rather by determination and character.

Outreach Initiatives

- All Outreach initiatives undertaken by the school are discussed at senior staff level to ensure that we do not act at cross purposes to each other and that the action is in line with our school ethos and understanding.