

Policy description:

Corporate social responsibility is a term used to describe when businesses look beyond their initial duty to staff, customers, students and the community. The policy brings together the ways in which the College ensures, at a corporate level, that its activities are carried out ethically, sustainably, and for the public benefit.

Links to other policies:

Environmental and Sustainability Strategy

1.0 CONTEXT

- 1.1 Craven College governors, staff and students take social responsibility seriously and see it as an integral part of our business. As a small further education college and employer, we have a major role to play in the social and economic welfare of the Craven area and the wider region, and an ethical responsibility to our planet.

2.0 STUDENTS

- 2.1 As part of the College experience, students are encouraged to consider their own social responsibility through tutorial programmes which cover the five themes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well-being. Social responsibility also underpins activities supported by the many equality and diversity initiatives both within the College and within the wider community.

3.0 ENVIRONMENT

- 3.1 Craven College is working to improve the environmental performance of its estate through new buildings being built to BREEAM "Outstanding" and refurbished buildings to BREEAM "Very Good". The College is also undertaking other works to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings through improved insulation, installation of LED lighting, lobby door systems and use of electronic systems in place of paper.
- 3.2 Curriculum and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is used to promote knowledge, attitudes and skills that enable individuals to make informed decisions relating to the impact of their actions on the environment. To this end a Sustainable Development Week is held annually which involves the whole of the College.
- 3.3 The College publishes Green Travel Plans for both staff and students which seek to encourage more sustainable and healthy modes of travel.
- 3.4 The College is wholly committed to working positively to expand, develop and evaluate our sustainability programme and environmental performance. The College believes in educating staff as well as students about sustainable issues to encourage behavioural change and enable individuals to make informed choices.

4.0 COMMUNITY

- 4.1 Local people and local businesses depend on the College to provide education and training, employment and advice to make a real difference to their success and Tyro Training is a key way the College meets this need.
- 4.2 Close relationships with the community enhances what we offer our students – providing work placements and working with local projects and networks in order to maximise community engagement.
- 4.3 Fundraising by staff and students is organised at course and College wide level via Student Services, the Student Council and curriculum areas to benefit a range of charities both locally and nationally.