



# Byron College

## International Policy

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**Distribution:** To all

Byron College, the International School of Athens, is a school that is founded on the principles of international understanding, equality and respect. Our pupils have their roots in over fifty different nations and, as such, a fundamental element of every learning experience within the school is of a strong global dimension. The majority of our pupils are multilingual, as are many of our teaching staff.

We encourage positive engagement in a world that is rapidly changing, we celebrate our diversity and actively promote critical analysis of and reflection on issues of global significance.

We are committed to providing our pupils with as many opportunities as possible to explore the increasing interdependence of a global society, identity and diversity as well as to have a true understanding of the rights and shared responsibilities of being an active global citizen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We emphasise critical thinking and communication within our curriculum with a focus on cooperative learning and action related to those responsibilities. Our values and ethos empower our pupils within all subject areas to become knowledgeable, confident citizens in an outward looking society and equip them for life and work in a global economy.

The Byron College International Policy reflects the commitment, dedication and support of the school board, management, staff and parents to ensure that our pupils are fully prepared to participate in a future that is inextricably linked to the complex challenges of living in a global community.

The policy is renewed every three years.

### **Aims**

- To continue to develop all areas of the curriculum within a global context
- To build and reinforce all pupils' sense of identity and cultural awareness
- To emphasise critical thinking and communication skills
- To promote positive values where all pupils see themselves as global citizens able to contribute towards the achievement of a more just and sustainable world
- To give pupils the opportunity to participate in international conferences, tournaments, competitions and partnerships with the aim of developing positive attitudes and important skills, and an orientation towards active participation

- To promote the value of foreign languages by demonstrating our own strong belief in the value of all languages and the cultural concept behind them and respecting and actively celebrating the multicultural linguistic traditions and cultures represented by the pupil cohort at Byron College, and in the local and national community
- To engage in regular dialogue and interaction with a wide range of international school communities and international organizations
- To ensure that all our pupils have a full understanding of their human rights

### **To be achieved**

- By the implementation of a whole school PSHRE programme in the curriculum which emphasises tolerance, identity and diversity, living in a wider world and rights and responsibilities.
- By participating in International Model United Nations conferences
- By participating in International and National debate tournaments
- By the continual review of the curriculum and the addition of Global Perspectives as an IGCSE
- By collaborating with organisations, such as UNESCO, to celebrate and promote world days (e.g. World Philosophy day and World Book Day)
- By participating in competitions and tournaments organised by COBIS (Council of British International Schools) of which Byron College is an Accredited School.
- By hosting COBIS conferences for teachers from International Schools
- By hosting international debate tournaments for pupils
- By participating in twinning projects that require collaboration, such as the Erasmus programme
- By participating in competitions organized by the British Council
- By inviting guest speakers to the school from International Universities, the European Union, multinational companies and international organisations
- By welcoming trainee teachers from other European countries on work experience programmes
- By encouraging and providing the means for our teachers to visit schools in other countries
- By the active participation in pen pal exchanges with peers from schools in other countries
- By organizing educational trips abroad for our pupils
- By having a continual programme of educational visits within Greece, for all year groups, fostering an understanding of the history, culture and traditions of Greece and its place in world history
- By organizing community service, fund raising and volunteerism within the Athens area which reinforce collective responsibility and a deeper understanding of modern Greece which for many of the pupil body is their adoptive or host country

### **Objectives:**

- To continue to expand our international participations to include Harvard Model Congress Europe (HMCE), The Hague Model United Nations (THIMUN) and the Model European Parliament
- To expand our pupil leadership programme to include European Union awards and initiatives
- To compete in National and International Olympiads
- To remain open to any new opportunities that may arise for pupils on a National, European and International level
- To become more active in Environmental projects and to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability.