



## THOMAS'S CHARITIES POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

The school rule to 'Be Kind' is at the heart of Thomas's London Day Schools ethos.

We believe passionately in engendering a sense of social responsibility and a culture of being givers not takers in each school community. One of the ways in which our school rule has found expression at Thomas's has been through the creation of opportunities for pupils, parents and staff to learn about and to support charitable causes.

The charitable aspect of the schools' ethos began with the selection of charities by the schools, staff members and PTAs with the subsequent establishment of two permanent children's charities; The Thomas's Schools Foundation and The CAIRN Trust.

We are extremely proud of Thomas's long standing record of helping a very wide range of charities in achieving their objectives. However, we are under no illusion that this record has only been made possible through the hard work of the PTAs and the support, commitment and generosity of many Thomas's pupils, parents and members of each school community.

The aim of this policy is to explain the schools' current involvement in charitable activities. We hope that by doing so pupils, parents and members of staff will be encouraged to continue the tremendous tradition of support for the charitable aims of Thomas's London Day Schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tobyn Thomas".

Tobyn Thomas  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Thomas".

Ben Thomas  
Principal

## **AIMS**

### **What are the charitable aims of Thomas's London Day Schools?**

- To broaden the education of pupils at Thomas's beyond the school curriculum by providing educational and practical charitable experiences.
- To improve educational opportunities for less advantaged children, both in the UK and in Nepal, through Thomas's two permanent school charities.
- To put the most important school rule, 'Be Kind,' into practice.
- To engage pupils, parents and staff in the schools' chosen charities.
- To raise awareness of and funds for the schools' chosen charities.

### **What are the main areas of charitable activity?**

- External charities chosen by the schools and their PTAs
- Thomas's two permanent school charities; The Thomas's Schools Foundation (TSF) and The CAIRN Trust. These charities are described in more detail in the following pages.

### **How do the schools choose their charities?**

Charities are proposed by the staff and PTA and discussed with the Head and representatives of the Charities Committee. The charity selected delivers a presentation to the pupils so they may understand more fully the purpose of the organisation. Any current or former member of the school community may nominate a charity to the PTA as part of the selection process.

During their time at Thomas's, we use our best endeavour to expose pupils to a diverse range of charitable causes. A small selection of some of the charities chosen by the schools and PTA can be found on the following pages.

### **What active involvement do the pupils have with the chosen charities?**

The PTAs work closely with the chosen charities to develop a varied and extensive calendar of engaging fundraising activities for pupils, parents and staff. Throughout their time, chosen charities visit the schools in order to raise awareness of their work and interact with the pupils.

'Charity Week' brings a further focus on the activities of the chosen charities. During this time, sponsored events such as sports activities, mufti days and 'readathons' may be organised so that pupils can fundraise for their chosen charity. The money raised by the pupils is then presented to the charity in an assembly or at an event; giving the pupils an opportunity to understand how the charity will make best use of the funds they have been instrumental in helping to raise.

In addition where possible, activities are arranged for pupils to provide 'hands-on' support to local charities beyond the chosen charity of the year. Such activities have included:

- Battersea pupils running the pensioners' lunch club at the Katherine Low Settlement in Battersea
- Clapham pupils sorting food at the foodbank and Ace of Clubs for vulnerable people in the area
- Fulham Unicorn Choir singing to senior citizens in the community during an afternoon tea at St Dionis' Church

- Kensington pupils making and giving cards to the elderly at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital

### **Why does Thomas's have two permanent school charities?**

Thomas's offers a high standard of broad curriculum education for children in London. However, it is aware that this opportunity is not always available to all children. As a way of giving back to the community, Thomas's London Day Schools aspires to help school children both locally and internationally through the establishment and permanent support of two charities:

- **The Thomas's Schools Foundation (TSF)** – which strives to ensure that local children in the communities surrounding four schools, especially those with fewest resources, have opportunities to succeed in school and life ([www.tsfoundation.org](http://www.tsfoundation.org)).
- **The CAIRN Trust** – which aims to educate and improve educational opportunities for some of the poorest children and their communities in the mountain villages of Nepal ([www.cairntrust.org](http://www.cairntrust.org)).

### **How are these two permanent charities supported at Thomas's?**

Within a four year rotational period, each Thomas's school and their PTA adopt both TSF and CAIRN individually as their annual chosen charity. The PTA Chairs kindly volunteer to act as ex-officio Trustees on both the TSF and CAIRN's board during their two year tenure, offering an essential contact with Thomas's.

In addition, the PTAs also generously donate proceeds from the sale of second hand uniform to both charities. The Thomas's parent community provides an excellent and resourceful talent bank of dedicated and skilled volunteers from which both charities draw upon in the delivery of their activities and programmes.

### **Where do the two permanent school charities get their funding from?**

The Thomas's school community provides a vital source of fundraising for both TSF and CAIRN. However, over the last two years, both charities have also been successful in securing project funding from various external sources, e.g. trusts and foundations, corporate partners, suppliers and local businesses.

### **Is this all to do with meeting the requirements of the Charity Commission?**

No. Unlike many independent schools, the legal entity of Thomas's London Day Schools is an unlimited company, not a charitable trust. There is therefore no legal obligation on the schools to pass a test of public benefit. Involvement in charitable activities has always been and continues to be quite simply a core part of the ethos of the schools.

### **Are there any exceptions?**

In addition to the formalised appointment of school charities, schools also support the local church through church service and harvest collections. All the schools offer pupils the opportunity to volunteer their skills and time to local charities and businesses during regular Make a Difference (MAD) Days. From time to time, schools may respond to national appeals such as "Jeans for Genes" but these are usually of a more ad-hoc or short term nature.

**What if I already have a preferred charity?**

At Thomas's, we acknowledge that many parents and members of staff already have preferred charities that they support or in which they have an active involvement. Supporting our chosen charities is voluntary and there is no obligation to make donations or to get involved. At the same time, we welcome – indeed, rely on – the support of parents, pupils and staff to make our charitable areas a success.

**How often will I get requests for charitable donations?**

This will vary across the schools. However, we work closely with each of the schools and PTAs to ensure that all areas of charitable activity are co-ordinated and complementary. By concentrating our charitable efforts on two main areas of charitable activity, we hope to ensure that parents and staff are not subjected to excessive charitable requests.

**How can I get involved with charities at Thomas's?**

There are many ways to get involved, ranging from volunteering your time e.g. at cake sales and Christmas Fairs; volunteering your skills e.g. as part of an organising committee or supporting one of the permanent school charities; to fundraising or making charitable donations.

One of the more fun ways in which you get involved with charities is by attending social events organised by the PTA, such as Quiz Nights or Wine Tastings.

**Who can I talk to?**

To discuss any aspect of the schools' charitable activities, please contact the PTA team at your school or speak to the School Office who can put you in touch with the right person.

**Examples of external charities supported by the schools and PTAs in recent years include:**

Thomas's Battersea

Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice  
Friends of Colombia for Social Aid (FOCSA)  
Wandsworth Food Bank

Thomas's Clapham

Paralympics GB  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)  
Place2Be

Thomas's Fulham

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Arts Fund  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children (GOSH)  
Canine Partners

Thomas's Kensington

The Back Up Trust  
Fireman's Benevolent Fund  
Breathe Magic

Thomas's Kindergarten

Battersea Summer Scheme  
Katharine Low Settlement  
Thrive

**See also:** [PSHE and Citizenship Policy](#), [SMSC Policy](#)

<b>This policy will be reviewed every two years</b>			
Created: May 2009	By:	Jill Kelham, Vice Principal	
Latest Review: September 2015	By:	Joanna Copland, Vice Principal	Changes made
Next Review: September 2017	By:	Joanna Copland, Vice Principal	

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Thomas's School Foundation

Appendix 2: The CAIRN Trust

## CHARITIES POLICY APPENDIX 1



### Overview

The Thomas's Schools Foundation (TSF), strives to ensure that children, especially those with fewest resources, have opportunities to succeed in school and life by:

- identifying, supporting and funding educational and extracurricular activities for local children
- providing funding for means-tested bursaries for children to attend Thomas's London Day Schools.

### History

TSF was established in 1999, as a charity supporting local children in the four Thomas's communities of Battersea, Clapham, Fulham and Kensington. Although it has a similar name and logo, the Foundation is independent from Thomas's and is governed by independent Trustees.

### Programmes

The Foundation works with the local community in a variety of ways. Programmes are developed in partnership with local primary schools and community centres, with whom the Foundation ensures there is a need for assistance. It currently offers 82 community programmes that are making a difference in the lives of thousands of children by giving them access to opportunities they otherwise would not have. Examples of some of the programmes include clubs in sports, music, art, drama and ICT; creative writing and storytelling workshops; outdoor plays activities and breakfast book clubs to ensure children are equipped for the school day.

TSF also offers means-tested bursaries of up to 90% for children to attend one of the four Thomas's London Day Schools. Over the past fifteen years more than 40 children have had a Thomas's education because of this pioneering programme. Short-term assistance is also available to current Thomas's London Day School families who encounter unexpected financial difficulty.

### TSF at Thomas's London Day Schools

The Foundation plays an integral part in the development and delivery of the Community Days at Thomas's, where pupils and parents can help out in a variety of community programmes across London from football tournaments with local state schools to singing at nursing homes or cleaning up public gardens.

Literacy is an important area of focus for the Foundation. Thomas's parents can volunteer to read with children in many of the TSF's partner schools on a weekly basis, giving one-to-one assistance that is desperately needed to improve reading levels and, in turn, to help boost the self-esteem of the children. The Foundation hosts a "TSF Readers' Cup" at the Thomas's London Day Schools

across four boroughs which is a live “University-style” reading competition for over 144 pupils from local state primary schools.

More information about the activities of the Foundation, including information for prospective applicants for support, is available on the Foundation’s website ([www.tsfoundation.org](http://www.tsfoundation.org)), from the schools’ offices or from:

Thomas’s Schools Foundation, PO Box 46805, London SW11 3WJ.

Telephone: 020 7978 0911. Email: [enquiries@tsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tsfoundation.org.uk)

## CHARITIES POLICY APPENDIX 2



### Overview – Every Child Deserves an Education

The CAIRN Trust believes that every child deserves an enriching education. David and Joanna Thomas founded The CAIRN Trust in 2007 and since its birth CAIRN has helped over 22,000 children in the rural hill villages of Western Nepal access education.

### The History: Why Does CAIRN work in Nepal?

The Thomas's family connection with Nepal goes back over 40 years to when David Thomas served as an officer in the 2nd Gurkhas. David and his wife Joanna, spent time in Nepal, and took their young family on trek in the Himalayas, where they built a connection with, and gained first hand insight, into the lives of the very poor, but cheerful and resilient people in the rural hill villages of Western Nepal.

David and Joanna settled with their family in London and founded Thomas's London Day Schools. During that time they continued to visit Nepal. Building on over 35 years of educational experience gained from Thomas's London Day Schools, David and Joanna became determined to improve access to education for the poorest children in the rural hill villages. CAIRN is improving education in Nepal, the poorest country in South East Asia, through four core programmes.

### Our Programmes

- **CAIRN Schools: Improving Education** Cairn has built 20 schools. Many schools in the rural hills of Nepal are often dilapidated or in a very poor state of repair, classrooms are dark and cold. CAIRN schools are earthquake-proofed, with well-lit and well-resourced classrooms improving our child beneficiaries' educational environment and access to education.
- **CAIRN Libraries: Improving literacy:** Currently CAIRN has installed 30 libraries, equipped with age appropriate books in Nepali and English. Trained librarians ensure the libraries operate effectively and are sustainable for the long term.
- **CAIRN Educational Awards (CEA): Sending children to school** – The awards provide essential educational supplies e.g. uniforms, school bag, books and stationery crucial for learning, to the poorest children. The recipients' progress is monitored and addressed quarterly both at home and school through a team of dedicated and trained social workers who also provide invaluable mentoring support. The Awards alleviate the financial burden of education on parents enabling families to ensure that their children can attend school regularly, thereby completing their primary and secondary education.
- **CAIRN Early Years (CEY) – Improving teaching and classroom resources.** CAIRN has trained 140 teachers across 19 schools. This programme supports CAIRN's vision to provide a holistic education programme, ensuring that our child beneficiaries not only have the



appropriate environment in which to learn but that teachers are trained fully to use the resources to teach inspiring, interactive lessons.

### **The CAIRN Trust at Thomas's London Day Schools**

Each Thomas's school has at least one sister school in Nepal that it has funded the construction of and a village community that it continues to develop and support.

CAIRN works through a number of communication channels to strengthen the links between Thomas's pupils and the pupils in our Nepalese schools e.g. postcards and bookmark exchanges. Working through a teacher network of CAIRN Coordinators, each school hosts an annual Nepal Day, offering Thomas's pupils the unique opportunity to learn about the diverse culture of a developing country. Each school also appoints a pupil to become the CAIRN Prefect who supports the Coordinators in developing exciting learning opportunities and new ways of engaging the entire Thomas's pupil community.

Thomas's families are offered the opportunity to experience CAIRN's projects first hand during an annual two week trek to Nepal during the Easter holidays.

CAIRN has an extensive sporting and events fundraising calendar allowing parents and staff to support the charity.

More information about the activities of The CAIRN Trust is available at [www.cairntrust.org](http://www.cairntrust.org), or from The CAIRN Trust, Monmouth Court, Southampton Road, Ringwood, BH24 1HE. Telephone: 01425 481506. Email: [info@cairntrust.org](mailto:info@cairntrust.org)