

GPI: Education Policy

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Signed:
For the Policy Review Committee

Policy Name: GPI Education Policy

Policy Number: GPI 003

Reference:

GPI Performance Management Policy

GPI Strategic Plan

GPI School Child Health and Safety Policy

Summary Offences Ordinance Part V. 23(recommend review of law)

Rationale: To provide equal and impartial educational opportunities for the Pitcairn Islands Community and to empower Pitcairn Islanders with the skills necessary to run their country which is an important component of the overall policy to encourage repopulation. Our vision is to provide primary and secondary education that equates to education standards abroad and to promote the benefits of tertiary and adult education and its relevance to the Pitcairn Islands community.

Definitions:

The school teacher is known as the Education Officer (EO) in this policy.

The Education Officer is also deemed to be the Principal of Pulau School.

Policy Objectives:

- 1) To guide the delivery of an education curriculum which prepares the children of Pitcairn Island for life both on Pitcairn and abroad, whilst reinforcing Pitcairn's cultural identity and encouraging national pride.
- 2) To guide the delivery of appropriate cultural, preschool, primary, secondary, tertiary and adult education to allow the whole community to reach its full potential through the provision of a high standard of education using all available resources. eg. Videolink.

Activities:

1.0 GPI assures good governance of Pulau School.

- Pulau School will be governed by a Board of Trustees. (BOT)
- The Education Officer is responsible for the management of Pulau School and report to the BOT.
- A Board of Trustees will be elected annually by the parents based on individual members' relationships with the students.. The board will consist of the Education Officer and up to four other members of the Pitcairn Islands

Community. A minimum of three of these members will be permanent Pitcairn Island residents.

- Roles and responsibilities of the BOT will be developed in line with NZ National Administration I Guidelines including;
 1. Curriculum Delivery, Assessment/Recording, Identifying needs/Special needs, Career/preparing for future options.
 2. Staff appraisal and performance management, Self review, Strategic Planning, Reporting to Parents and Community.
 3. Good Employer
 4. Financial Management and Education Budget.
 5. Safe Environment, property maintenance and evacuation plans.
 6. Hours of opening, Legal Responsibilities, Length of Terms, Roll, and School Year.

The Board of Trustees will submit monthly reports to GPI under these headings.
(Board of Trustees yet to be set up)

2.0 GPI assures appropriate Education Curriculum delivery.

- A Curriculum based on the NZ model, relevant to Pitcairn's requirements, will be developed by the Education Officer, ratified by the Board of Trustees, approved by the Parent Teachers Association and delivered by the teachers at Pulau School.
- The BOT will approve the development of a cultural studies and pre-school curriculum for Pulau School.
- Education is provided to all Pitcairn Island children from pre-school age and is compulsory from the ages of 5 – 16 years of age. (*Recommend law review*)
- The Pulau School curriculum will include life skills development. All students in their final year are entitled to participate in work place learning within GPI organisational structure.
- Work place learning will be scheduled in association with the EO and GPI.

3.0 GPI recognises the Pitcairn Islands as a bilingual country with a unique cultural identity.

- The Pulau School Curriculum will include development of relevant Pitcairn community life skills including the Pitkern language and culture.
- People within the Pitcairn Islands community with appropriate skills will be invited to teach at Pulau School on an agreed scheduled basis.
- The Pitcairn flag will be flown at Pulau School.

4.0 GPI will involve all teaching staff in performance management.

- All teaching staff will provide a written monthly report to the Education Officer who will incorporate relevant information into his/her report to Council.
- The Education Officer's curriculum delivery will be reviewed by a member of the BOT on a twice yearly basis.
- The Education Officer will monitor the education delivery of all teaching staff.

5.0 The governance of Pulau School will be under the guidelines of the Pulau School Charter. It has been developed to ensure continuity of education standards and values regardless of change in teaching staff.

- GPI takes responsibility for selecting appropriate staff for all positions at Pulau School. On Island GPI representatives will participate in interviews and selection of all teaching staff.

6.0 GPI acknowledges its responsibility to provide failsafe child protection.

- Please refer to the School Child Health and Safety Policy.

The Education Officer reports truancy to the Board of Trustees, who in association with, the Pitcairn Island Police and GPI, will investigate the matter.

7.0 GPI requires the recording, monitoring and reporting of all students' educational progress.

- Assessment of the children's progress at Pulau School is undertaken by the Education Officer and reported on a term by term basis, appropriately, to the parents/guardians of the child.
- Student confidentiality is protected at all times.

- Students studying abroad on a GPI scholarship will provide GPI with copies of his/her academic record at the end of each term and/or semester.

8.0 GPI provides a scholarship program for overseas education.

- GPI provides a scholarship for students who meet set academic criteria, to attend secondary school abroad and will cover the whole cost of tuition, books, uniforms, transport and the student's accommodation.
- Tertiary education is encouraged for all school students who meet the entrance requirements of a tertiary education facility. GPI will meet two thirds of the overall cost of an approved tertiary course. The student is required to return to the Pitcairn Islands, to work, in order to meet predetermined bond requirements.
- Returning Student will have completed a minimum of 2 years work experience, post graduation or registration, in their field, before returning to Pitcairn to work.
- GPI will develop a Student Visa Program to enable students to attend tertiary education facilities in New Zealand or approved destination. Pitcairn Island residents are able to access the same benefits as UK residents in accessing tertiary education in the UK. (See Annex UK Tertiary Ed System entitlements)
- The student will ensure that GPI receives a copy of his/her academic record at the end of each term or semester. Non-performance may prevent the continuation of study that is funded by GPI.

Failure to complete the course, or to meet the bond requirements, grants GPI the right to claim back all GPI funded travel and course expenses.

9.0 GPI encourages Adult Education opportunities.

- GPI provides all adult permanent Pitcairn Island residents with the opportunity to upgrade their education to a tertiary entrance level via facilities on Island.
- An adult education room is provided at Pulau School and will be utilised where appropriate.
- Funding for tertiary adult education beyond entrance level abroad may be granted on application to GPI and approved according to GPI's strategic plan.

Refer to GPI Strategic Plan

- Employment related courses may be applied for and approved by GPI in accordance with GPIs Strategic plan, employment performance management policies.

Refer to GPI Performance Management Policy

ANNEXES (Still to be developed)

Annex A Pulau School Charter

Annex B Academic criteria for scholarship

Annex C Procedures for application for scholarship

Annex D Scholarship Agreement

Annex E Student Visa Programme

Annex F UK Tertiary Education System entitlements

This Policy is approved by:

Date:

This Policy is effective as of:

Date: July 15th 2008

Approved Review Date: March 6th 2009