



Dear Parents / Carers,

TORBAY AND DEVON CIVIC AWARD

I am delighted that your child has expressed an interest in working towards the Torbay and Devon Civic Award this year and I am writing to give you further information of this well respected initiative which I started in Torbay in 2004. The award grows every year and this year over 1000 children will be taking part from over 40 different primary schools in Devon.

To achieve the award pupils have to prove their participation in seven main areas. These are:

Active Citizenship in their school community This could be Peer Mediation , Reading Buddies . School Council or other positions of trust and responsibility in school.

Active Citizenship in their home communities In the past, pupils have taken part in beach cleans, bulb planting, helping at Brownies /Cubs/sports clubs and looking after people in the community. Pupils may also work with others to organise events in school to support local charities. Children may, of course, get involved with events out of school but responsibility for this will lie with parents.

A physical hobby (ies)

A non-physical hobby (ies)

Children should spend about 30 minutes on average a week on their hobbies and one of them needs to be new to the child from September. They need to be committed to their hobby for at least 4 months.

Residential experience and adventure training

This entails sleeping away from home and family and taking part in outdoor challenges.

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Children also need to adopt a **cause or charity** which they feel strongly about. They need to research it and find ways of supporting it.

They also need to make a **pledge to the planet**. This will be a promise that they make to the planet whilst they are taking part in the award. Children will need to research ways to help save the environment and take action on at least one thing.

Pupils will need to keep evidence for this in a portfolio or file. Evidence may include photographs, certificates, letters of recommendation, press cuttings, personal reflections etc.

There will be an Assessment Day in June when external assessors will meet with children individually. Those children who achieve the award will be invited to the Awards Ceremonies next July, where certificates will be awarded to successful pupils by the Mayors Of Torbay and Devon. Further details to follow.

The Civic Award does a great deal to develop children`s character. It encourages them to be compassionate and to take responsibility for positive change. It also supports them in leading purposeful and full lives and is great preparation for both secondary school and the workplace.

Children who take part in the Torbay and Devon Civic Award report that it helps them learn skills of working both collaboratively and independently , skills of managing and organising events and makes them feel ‘grown up’. It certainly builds self esteem.

Your support with this would be greatly appreciated. The award must be the children`s own work but parents are so valuable in facilitating their involvement.

Good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Thomson (Founder of the Torbay Civic Award)

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