

Public Benefit Statement

Public Benefit

Halesowen College is a public sector body and an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body are trustees of the charity.

In setting and reviewing the College's strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The College adjusts its courses to meet the needs of local employers and actively supports the Local Skills Improvement Plan. The College is committed to providing information, advice and guidance to the students it enrolls and to funding suitable courses for as many as possible irrespective of their educational background. The College wishes to be recognised as a charity and therefore must demonstrate, explicitly, that all aims are for the public benefit.

The College first adopted a Public Benefit Statement in April 2013 which has since been reviewed annually. In delivering its stated purpose, the College provides identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education to in excess of 5,000 students including those on an Education Health Care Plan and those with high needs. The College provides courses without charge to 16-18 learners, those who are unemployed or on low incomes and adult learners benefitting from academic entitlement, WMCA local flexibilities studying under the Free Courses for Jobs Scheme, bootcamps or into employment courses and/or taking English and Maths courses.

Halesowen College demonstrates:

- High quality teaching, learning and assessment.
- Impactful skills development
- Widening participation and promoting inclusion
- Excellent progression for students to employment, apprenticeship or further/higher education
- Outstanding student support
- Effective relationships with employers and the local community
- Links with a range of partners including Chamber of Commerce and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)
- A relevant impactful and accessible curriculum meets the needs of all stakeholders and contributes to a talent pipeline to reduce the skills deficit.

The College is accountable to its learners, the wider community it serves and other stakeholders; adding value to the social, economic and wellbeing of the community it serves.

The provision at Halesowen College meets the public benefit principles in as much as there are identifiable benefits to the public/section of the public.

The purpose of the College is the delivery of high quality education and training that maximises student opportunities and success. This will be achieved through a framework to:

- design and promote services to fulfil requirements and needs;
- provide a wide range of high quality learning programmes;
- ensure that the College actively seeks to improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness in all its activities.

Each year the Corporation formally review its activities to ensure that they meet the public benefit definition and that they are within its powers. No issues of concern have been identified.