

## 23. THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

**TASK 1. Which of these words describe a school COMMUNITY and which ones – a school BUILDING?**



administrators    the canteen  
 collaboration    creativity    empathy  
 goals    the gym    the library  
 members    parents    the playground  
 responsibility    sharing    the staffroom  
 the stairs    support

**TASK 2. Read the text and answer the questions.**

1. What kind of information is presented in the text?
  - (A) Opinions about various school communities
  - (B) A story about a successful school community
  - (C) A description of an effective school community
  
2. What is the purpose of the text?
  - (A) To give advice on how to involve parents in school life
  - (B) To explain how learning can be improved
  - (C) To inform the reader about the features of a successful community
  
3. What is the tone of the text?
  - (A) Rather informal/emotional
  - (B) Quite neutral
  - (C) Highly formal/official

**TASK 3. Read the text and decide which of these ideas are presented in the text. Tick (✓) the box if the ideas are mentioned or put a cross (x) if the ideas are not in the text.**

1. Learning is important for developing teachers' qualifications.	
2. Teachers can attend in-service training courses.	
3. The school administration provides financial support to those who need it.	
4. People with health problems are given special attention.	
5. Common aims are more important than personal aims.	
6. Teachers can learn effective methods from their colleagues.	

### **The School as a Learning Community**

Everybody knows that education is about learning. However, the idea of learning is more than course syllabi, curricula, lesson plans, and creative teaching. A true learning community tries to improve continually and to update knowledge in their field as well as discover new and creative ways to teach. A learning community encourages continual learning process that involves students, teachers, instructors, administrators, and support staff. The learning community can sit at the same table and freely talk, debate, and discuss. All members are equal and everyone has something of value to bring to the table.

### **The School as a Supportive Community**

Some members of the community (for example, new teachers or those staff members who experience health problems or other personal difficulties) may need more support than others. A supportive community:

- Recognizes special days such as birthdays, marriages, the birth of children to staff members and so on.
- Incorporates social activities into school meetings.
- Communicates regularly with community members who are on sick leave or have a long term disability.
- Is empathic when individual problems occur and offers help.

### **The School as a Collaborative Community**

Collaboration is sharing, discussing, listening, and testing. Collaboration means that professionals want to put aside personal agendas for group goals and common results. In collaborative communities all contributions are valuable. The sharing of individual classroom success lets other teachers to recreate that success. There is no “blame game” in collaborate school communities. Members take personal responsibility and are always ready to change when needed.

**TASK 4. Match the phrases to make meaningful sentences.**

1. The idea of learning is	A into school meetings.
2. A learning community	B or other difficulties should be given support.
3 It is good to incorporate social activities	C encourages continual learning.
4 Those experiencing health problems	D more than covering a course syllabus.
5 Collaboration is sharing,	E undergo periodic training.
6 Members of an active learning community	F personal responsibility for their actions.
7 Members take	G discussing, listening, and testing.

**TASK 5. Rearrange the words to make sentences.**

1. discover / a / learning / teaching / to / of / tries / new / community / ways
2. members / all / in / equal / are / a / community
3. everyone / to / something / has / valuable / share
4. special / events / a / community / supportive / recognizes
5. need / help / some / the / others / of / may / more / than / members / community
6. are / in / all / contributions / important / collaborative / communities
7. if / staff / change / are / necessary / members / to / ready

## ANSWERS

### 23. SCHOOL COMMUNITY

#### TASK 1.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY : administrators collaboration creativity empathy goals  
members parents responsibility sharing support

SCHOOL BUILDING : canteen gym library playground staffroom stairs

#### TASK 2.

1. C A description of an effective school community
2. C To inform the reader about the features of a successful community
3. B Quite neutral

#### TASK 3.

1. Learning is important for developing teachers' qualifications ✓
2. Teachers can attend in-service training courses. X
3. The school administration provides financial support to those who need it. X
4. People with health problems are given special attention. ✓
5. Common aims are more important than personal aims. ✓
6. Teachers can learn effective methods from their colleagues. ✓

#### TASK 4.

1. D-The idea of learning is more than covering a course syllabus.
2. C- A learning community encourages continual learning.
3. A- It is good to incorporate social activities into school meetings.
4. B- Those experiencing health problems or other difficulties should be given support.
5. G- Collaboration is sharing, discussing, listening, and testing.
6. E- Members of an active learning community undergo periodic training.
7. F- Members take personal responsibility for their actions.

#### TASK 5.

1. A learning community tries to discover new ways of teaching.
2. All members are equal in a community. OR In a community, all members are equal.
3. Everyone has something valuable to share.
4. A supportive community recognizes special events.
5. Some members of the community may need more help than others.
6. In collaborative communities all contributions are important.
7. Staff members are ready to change if necessary.