Outward Facing Schools: 
What is your ‘viewing point’?

The term ‘outward facing school’ invites school communities to ‘look out’ beyond the school gate and recognise their larger role in the community. Through engagement in authentic partnerships with families and the community, the outward facing school can explore learning in all its possibilities and make a contribution to the entire community’s capacity to learn (Goodfellow, 2008; Leithwood, Harris & Strauss, 2010).

**Principles of an ‘outward facing’ school**

When schools and communities work together using an ‘outward facing’ approach they:

- **Foster engagement in learning and build ownership**, whereby students, teachers, families, schools and communities work in partnership to develop ideas and make them happen.

- **Build social capital and connect young people and their families within the community**, so everyone experiences a sense of belonging and hope for the future.

- **Extend beyond the margins of formal schooling and as such can be owned collectively; they share resources, accountability and responsibility.**

- **Enhance the confidence and capacity of the community to engage in learning and promote wellbeing and achievement for all young people.**

From CEOM Charter for Promoting Outward Facing School Communities, 2011