Building a Thriving Community with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify the roles, responsibilities, and diverse contributions that create a supportive and inclusive community.

Read the following questions carefully. Use your understanding of how individuals contribute to the wellbeing of a community to provide thoughtful, justified responses.

Max the monkey enjoys solving maths puzzles to make the community garden run efficiently, while Zara the zebra uses her eye for pattern and colour to decorate local spaces, making them feel welcoming for everyone. Together, they work to ensure their neighbourhood is a place where every resident feels valued and heard.

Word bank: cooperation · diversity · responsibility · empathy · sustainability · inclusion · contribution · interdependence

1. Max believes that 'interdependence' is the most important part of a community. Explain what this word means and provide a real-life example of how people in your school rely on one another. (2 marks)

2. Zara suggests that a community is like a mosaic; each unique tile is essential to the final picture. Justify why diversity makes a community stronger rather than making it more difficult to manage. (3 marks)

3. Imagine your local community is planning a new park. Max has a budget of £500 to spend on improvements. List three ways he could spend this money to benefit the greatest number of people and explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the roles of an individual in a community versus the responsibility of the collective group. When should an individual put the needs of the community before their own? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a community lacked 'empathy'? Describe the potential long-term social consequences for the residents. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Community Map' that includes at least four different types of spaces or services that help people feel connected, such as a library, a community garden, a shared workspace, or a community centre.

Extension challenge: Design a 'Community Charter' for your local area. Create five rules that ensure everyone feels safe, included, and respected. Then, write a persuasive paragraph explaining why these five rules are vital for the sustainability of a happy community.