

## St. Catherine's C of E Primary School

# Community Cohesion Policy

Our school does not have a diverse student population so it is especially important to raise awareness of people from other backgrounds.

We believe our school has a key part to play in promoting community cohesion through our approach to:

- teaching and learning: teaching pupils to understand others, promoting discussion and debate about common values and diversity
- equity and excellence: removing barriers to access and participation, offering equal opportunities to all their pupils to succeed at the highest level possible
- engagement and ethos: providing opportunities for children, young people and their families to interact with others from different backgrounds.

## Ways of promoting community cohesion

Our approach includes a range of activities that are given high priority:

### **within the school**

- Charity support (selected by the pupils and staff and supported by parents and families)
- Working with the Church, having visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children

### **with other schools**

- Sporting fixtures, friendlies and competitive
- Sharing good practice (INSET etc.)
- Collaborative working on projects
- Working with International Partners – Global Link

### **with parents and the local and wider community.**

- Allowing community groups to use the hall etc.
- Enabling parents and community members to feed into SDP and suggestions for improvements
- By fostering links with Trecarn and Kernow House
- By participating in local events e.g. our Choir performing at such events

Our school can promote community cohesion in many ways.

## Teaching and learning

- Our teaching and the curriculum provision supports high standards of attainment (ensuring wherever possible that progress is good), promotes common values, and builds pupils' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them through RE, visitors and events in school.
- Lessons across the curriculum promote common values and help pupils to value differences and challenge prejudice and stereotyping.
- There is a programme of curriculum based activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through fieldwork, visits and meetings with members of different communities e.g. visits to London, local area, school based workshops etc.

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- Support for pupils for whom English is an additional language enables them to achieve at the highest possible level in English and across the curriculum.

### **Equity and excellence**

- In school, there is a focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic status. There are translation service arrangements available to parents and support for teachers and pupils in lessons through the Equality and Diversity Service.
- There are effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment. The pupils have developed an Anti-Bullying Charter. Staff record incidents of bullying and harassment in a dedicated log.
- LA and Diocesan school admission arrangements promote community cohesion and social equity.
- The International Schools Award and ArtsMark programmes within the school curriculum underpin the accessing of a variety of faiths and cultures through music, dance, art and languages.
- Concerts and events promoting support for diversity are held at varied times so all can access – Pearl Of Africa Choir visits, School Concerts, a range of workshops linked to understanding different cultures.

### **Engagement and ethos**

#### **School to school:**

- Partnership arrangements enable us to share good practice and offer pupils the opportunity to meet and learn from other young people from different backgrounds.
- Links are built into existing schemes of work and grounded in the curriculum with pupils working together on a joint project or activity
- shared use of facilities to provide a means for pupils to interact, e.g. visits to the Local Community College, use of their PE, science and ICT facilities.
- A shared transfer policy between all local schools to ensure that transition to secondary school is a positive experience.
- Governors engage with other governors from other schools.
- Formalise already active connections between schools.
- Develop curriculum projects between the other town schools and local secondary school.
- The school sports partnership allows pupils to engage with others in a wide range of events and allows them to experience new sports e.g members of local golf club come to work with children on golf skills, pupils obtaining important safety skills through the Bikeability scheme. School involved in badminton at County level after winning North Cornwall Competition.

#### **School to parents and the community:**

- Parents are regularly engaged with school through a wide range of events to ensure all join in and access ways of getting involved – Sports Day and Family Evening, regular parent support for reading roundabouts, Church services, meet the teacher evenings, parent reading workshops, home visits, Learning Together etc
- The school sensitively supports families with financial difficulties regarding school trips and visits and resources.

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- The school supports families in areas of safeguarding pupils with information leaflets and internet safety guidance.
- Strong links are fostered and encouraged, enabling multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the youth support service, the police and social care and health professionals – speech and language, mental health services.
- We promote engagement with parents through Friends of the School, curriculum evenings, parent and child courses, family learning, accompanying school trips and school workshops – arts workshops, Cornish Week, whole class music teaching with parent concert, Christmas Crafts workshops etc.
- We provide access to (or signpost) extended services and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours, including adult and family learning.
- Pupils are comfortable in their community and can easily engage with other groups – members from the local residential homes, if able to, are invited to school events – Choir Concert, Flava Dance Concert.
- The pupils are positively linked with local police through joint community events – bus station mural, Flava dance workshop, sponsored cycle ride for Downs Syndrome.
- The School Council is part of the Town Youth Council.
- There are strong links between the school and the local library from Foundation to Year 6 – reading events for all ages.

### **On-Going Plans**

- To build on excellent work towards School International Award and further develop our link with an urban primary school in Greenwich through and imbed community cohesion work within our School Development Plan.
- To extend our range of Arts events and involve members of the community.
- To further develop our strong links with the Community Police.
- To explore other UK cultures more specifically
- To encourage visits from and develop visits to other people around the UK.

Revised November 2011  
To be reviewed annually