



Community Cohesion Policy

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| Signature | |
| Review Schedule | 3 years |
| Last Revised | September 2015 |
| Next Approval Date | |
| | September 2018 |
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What is Community Cohesion?

By Community Cohesion, we mean working towards a society in which there is a common vision and a sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community (Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Education and Skills 2006). Community Cohesion is about how to avoid the corrosive effects of intolerance and harassment: how to build mutual civility among different groups, and to ensure respect for diversity alongside a commitment to common and shared bonds.

Common Vision

At St Mary's we believe in a shared future, a cohesive community with our school at its' heart. We aim to ensure a widely shared sense of contribution from different individuals and different communities, each holding and sharing different ambitions, aspirations, beliefs and life experiences, all working together to form a future vision of our neighbourhood, town, country and world.

Sense of Belonging

In our school, our stakeholders will have a strong sense of belonging. They will know what is expected of them and what they can expect in return. Rights and responsibilities are shared clearly and upheld fairly with an array of events and methods to ensure that our school reaches out beyond the walls of the school.

Life Opportunities

Through clear systems which are embedded throughout school, we are continually focusing upon tackling underachievement and inequality (please refer to the schemes and policies listed at the beginning of this document for further supporting materials). Our children value everyone as equal and this is reflected in their behaviour and approach to learning. As a school, we aim to create opportunities for every child to achieve their full potential both in and out of school and we are extremely proud of what our children accomplish both in and out of school.

Community from our school's perspective:

For our school, the term "community" has a number of dimensions including:

- *The School Community* – the children and young people it serves, their parents, carers and families, the school's staff and governing body, and community users of the school's facilities and services

- *The Community within which the School is Located* – the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in the that area. This includes the community of St Mary's Church Clymping.
- *The UK Community* – all schools are, by definition, part of this community
- *The Global Community* – formed by EU and international links

How does St Mary's contribute to Community Cohesion?

Broadly, we will contribute to community cohesion in three ways:

Teaching, learning and curriculum – helping our children to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst promoting shared values and to promote awareness of human rights and to apply and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action. We aim to ensure that we have a high standard of teaching and learning, that our curriculum is personalised, skills based, inspiring, thought provoking and provides a basis for outstanding achievement – encouraging children to continue their learning beyond the classroom.

We ensure that:

- Lessons across the curriculum promote common values and help pupils to value difference and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping
- The curriculum is built upon PSHE objectives and support a cross curricular approach
- Our RE curriculum provides opportunities for the study of a variety of faiths and open discussion about these.
- We provide a curriculum which is enriched with activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enhanced through visits and meetings with members of different communities.
- A personalised curriculum supports the needs and achievement of every child within our school
- An effective voice and involvement of pupils in all aspects of school life in a way which teaches them to participate and make a difference not just in school but in their local community and beyond.

Equity and Excellence – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest possible level, striving to remove barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.

We need to ensure that:

- All pupils are tracked throughout the school in all subject areas and that data is shared sensitively between the entire school community to support every child achieve their true potential

- Different groups are monitored for their performance and supported using targeted methods if underachievement becomes evident

Engagement and Extended Services – to provide reasonable means for children, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relationships, including links with different schools and communities and the provision of extended services with opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

We need to ensure that:

- Extended Schools provision is maintained and developed
- The website is updated regularly so that information about the school and its activities are readily available.
- Strong links with multi agency working between our school and other local agencies are maintained
- Strong links with Locality schools are maintained
- We build upon our positive links with Clymping Village, local businesses and St Mary's Church Clymping
- Maintain our links with Nepal and extend our developing links with Sierra Leone through Church support
- Link with a contrasting community in the UK so that our pupils are able to experience cultural diversity at first hand

How is Community Cohesion managed, monitored and reported?

Overall responsibility for embracing Community Cohesion lies within the Governing Body and is devolved to the Children's Committee who will monitor progress through feedback from the headteacher at their half termly meetings.