



## St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School



### Community Cohesion Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2018	September 2019	M Ryan

#### Introduction

At St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School we passionately believe that it is the duty of all schools to address issues of 'how we live together' and 'dealing with difference' however controversial and difficult they might sometimes seem. (The Diversity and Citizenship Curriculum Review, February 2007).

We believe that every school, whatever its intake and wherever it is located – is responsible for educating children and young people who will live and work in a country which is diverse in terms of culture, faith, ethnicity and social backgrounds.

Community cohesion lies at the heart of what makes a strong and safe community. We believe it must be delivered locally through creating strong networks, based on principles of trust and respect for local diversity, nurturing a sense of belonging and confidence in local people. Effectively delivering community cohesion also tackles the issues in society which may lead to conflict and ensures that different communities are a source of strength to local areas.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for promoting community cohesion at St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School, fulfilling our duty outlined in the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

A copy of this policy is available for all parents on request and it will be reviewed annually and amended if necessary. This policy was developed through a process of consultation with all school staff. It was presented to the Governors November 2009.

#### What is Community Cohesion?

By community cohesion, we mean working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities: a society in which the diversity of peoples 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 schools, workplaces and in the wider community.

### **Community from a school's perspective**

For schools the term 'community' has a number of dimensions including:

- The **school community** – the pupils it serves, their families and the school staff.
- The **community in which the school is located** – the school in its geographical community and the people who live and work in the area.
- The **community of Britain** – all schools are by definition part of this community.
- The **global community** – formed by the EU and national links.

### **How does our school contribute towards community cohesion?**

Schools' contribution to community can be grouped under the following three headings:

Teaching, learning and curriculum- to teach pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

- We provide opportunities across the curriculum that promote shared values and help pupils to value differences and challenge prejudices and discrimination.
- Stockton Police and the Fire Brigade come into school to deliver citizenship and safeguarding sessions with the school.
- The police and PCSOs visit school regularly and also work in the classroom on citizenship issues.
- We raise funds for CAFOD and other charities.
- Children's Groups are proactive in seeking ways to work and support their communities
- Children use Epraise to support local and national charities/causes
- We encourage visits from people who work around the world with people from diverse communities.
- We have links with other religious cultures for example the Muslim Centre in Westbury Street.
- We work in partnership with schools across Europe as part of our Comenius work
- We host visits from other schools both locally and internationally to strengthen partnerships and gain in mutual understanding
- Children take part in residential visits across Europe
- We ensure that our R.E. Programme, Come and See is supplemented with resources from S.E.A.L. and R.E. Provide
- Links with the Refugee Service are strong and the school actively supports through fundraising
- We ensure that, when necessary, there is good support for EAL pupils to enable them to be integrated and achieve their full potential.

- We participate in Show Racism the Red Card each year which is run by MBC and MFC.
- We have a link with our neighboring nursing home where children sing carols at Christmas and play bingo with residents.
- KS2 send Christmas cards to the housebound residents of the area.
- We have a strong partnership with St. Patrick's parish (catechists help in FHC and every fund raising event).
- Year 6 take part in the annual Thornaby Carol Service with all the Thornaby schools.
- We take part in local cultural events , working alongside our community (Diwali Project, Stockton Voices)
- We take part in various sporting events with local schools.

Equity and excellence – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, removing barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and eliminating variations in outcomes for different groups.

We have a focus on securing high standards of attainment for pupils of all ethnic backgrounds ensuring that pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential.

- We have included R.E. Assessments on our tracking system which will highlight progress.
- We keep a record of any incidents of bullying or racial discrimination in a Racist Incident book.
- We have a newly reviewed Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy and appropriate sanctions are in place for anyone who breaks the code of behaviour.
- We are building up a bank of resources on anti-bullying that would be accessible by each class and used by the whole-school during a raising awareness week which is arranged at appropriate times during the year.
- We have a new Admissions Code that has been passed by the Diocese and the LA.

Engagement and extended services – to provide a means for children, young people and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including links with different schools and communities locally, across the country and internationally.

### **School to School**

- We are developing links with local schools to establish relationships (transition & sport).
- G & T children work with other schools on projects that can be literacy based or numeracy based and provide the children with the opportunity to interact with other children from different types of schools.
- The children take part in various sporting competitions such as the Catholic Voice Cup and local sporting competitions.
- Extended Schools are funding Schools Clubs and we enter our children into our Middleborough Dance Festival.

## School to parents and the community

- We visit local homes for the elderly to ensure that the children have respect for the elderly.
- We access Pedestrian training with the LA.
- The children have devised their own Children's Charter as a positive way of promoting good social behavior in their community.
- The children attend important community events such as Remembrance Day, battle of Britain Memorial services to show our appreciation of those in our communities who have given so much for us
- Students from local colleges are given placements on a regular basis and work experience pupils are received into school each year.
- Parents accessing adult learning courses are given the opportunity to carry out their placement in our school.
- Regular parent evenings which take place termly.
- We work very closely with parents to foster out family liaison links, reaching parents who may need additional support.

## Extended Services

- The core offer of extended services is in place, eg Study Support, Breakfast Club, Parenting Support, swift and easy referral to specialist health and social care services.
- Extended provision (clubs) are offered free to all children so all have the right to come
- After school care (Breakfast Club and Little Leprechauns After School Club) are all provided at a minimum cost so access is available to all.
- Use of school premises for the wider community is developing (Rainbows).
- The school promotes local events to all parents
- Our parents and pupils are consulted regularly about activities and services that we provide.
- As part of the Thornaby Cluster we work together to build greater interaction and diversity into the lives of our pupils.
- We support all parents by providing information and advice on parenting programs and other courses that be of interest and value.
- Extended services in included in our School Improvement Plan to ensure we support the achievement of pupils from all different backgrounds.

## Schools to Local Authorities and other partners

We work closely with the LA and other partners to promote community cohesion. This policy

should be read in conjunction with other school policies.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

<b>Headteacher:</b>	M. Ryan	<b>Date:</b>	September 2018
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>	G. Wilson	<b>Date:</b>	September 2019