

Westhead Lathom St James' CE Primary School



Community Cohesion Policy

Last Reviewed: Spring 2024

Next Review: Spring 2027

Issue	Date	Author/Editor	Revision Notes
1	Spring 2021	Helen Clark	New Policy
2	Spring 2024	Helen Clark	Policy Reviewed

Vision Statement: Our Vision for the Future

'A curriculum that is challenging, inspiring and engaging; in which all pupils flourish spiritually, creatively and academically to become confident young people.'

'With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.' Ephesians 3:20 New Century Version (NCV)

Introduction

Following the Education and Inspection Act 2006, there has been a duty for schools to promote community cohesion. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Equalities; Special Educational Needs; Behaviour & Anti-Bullying; RSE; Preventing Extremism & radicalisation and Dealing with Equality and Discrimination Incidents.

Our Aims

For our children, we aim to provide a happy, safe and caring environment where all the children are valued as individuals. We want them to be able to enjoy and achieve to the best of their ability, stay safe, be healthy, make a positive contribution to the community and to enable them to enjoy a standard of living that makes the most of their life chances and choices.

It will be:

- A place of learning, where everyone is successful.
- A place that fosters relationships, where everyone is respected.
- A place of acceptance, where everyone is valued.
- A place of belonging, where everyone is welcomed and safe.

Our place of learning will be:

- proactive in making sure that every child achieves their full potential in all areas of their
- learning
- ambitious for each one of our children
- dynamic in its approach – everyone should enjoy their learning
- stimulating

Our teaching will be:

- high quality, leading to successful learning
- personalised to meet the needs of our pupils
- fun, purposeful and challenging
- designed to raise standards and ensure good progress in every class
- proactive in building confidence in each child, and equipping him/her with skills for lifelong
- learning
- reflective

Our school community will be:

- inclusive – everyone is important and welcome at WLSJ (children, staff, parents, governors from all backgrounds)
- caring – we will make time for people, and they will feel safe to express ideas and take risks
- respectful – everyone’s needs, talents and viewpoints will be considered
- enabling – everyone deserves the best possible conditions to learn and to teach
- outward facing – we will work in partnership with the SHARES cluster, small schools’ cluster, Diocese and groups in the wider community
- aware of everyone’s need to be and feel safe

Community Cohesion

Community Cohesion, means 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 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.

Community from a school’s perspective includes:

- The school community – the children it serves, their families and the school’s staff and governors
- The community within which the school is located – the school in its geographical community of Westhead and the people who live or work in that area
- The church community of St James
- The community of the UK
- The global community – formed by international links
- Networks formed with other schools through clusters etc

How do we contribute to Community Cohesion?

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Through planned learning experiences, we help children to learn to understand others, to value diversity and promote shared values. We also promote awareness of human rights and British values as well as developing the skills of participation. Our curriculum is designed so that our pupils learn about their local community of Westhead and what is special about this as well as learning about the diversity of the UK and wider world.

Equity and Excellence

We aim to ensure equal opportunities for all children so that they can achieve their full potential. Our school vision is rooted in the biblical verse Ephesians 3:20 which says, 'With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ever ask or imagine.' We believe that every child regardless of their background has not only the right to a positive school experience but has the ability to achieve great things.

Through careful planning and analysis of data, we work to remove barriers to enable access and participation in learning and other activities. We work to eliminate variations in achievement for different groups. Tracking pupil progress and engagement in wider extra-curricular activities enables us to identify and address underperformance.

Engagement and Extended Services

We provide means for children and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds so building positive relationships. This refers to:

- Links with different schools and groups within our community
- Provision of extended services
- Opportunities for children, families
- Visitors from outside of our local community that reflect the diversity of the UK
- Global links

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every member of the staff and the Governing Body to ensure that community cohesion is actively promoted. They should provide positive role models for the children who will also be expected to take responsibility for their own attitudes and behaviour. This will be endorsed through the school's ethos, collective worship and the PSHE curriculum.

Governors' Responsibilities

- To promote community cohesion as part of its leadership and management role
- To follow up any complaints with the headteacher
- To assist in the monitoring process of the policy and development plan

Headteacher's Responsibilities

- To ensure that all staff are made aware of their responsibilities under the Community Cohesion Policy
- To ensure that the policy is implemented in all activities within the school
- To work with the Governing Body to monitor the implementation of the policy and action plan for Community Cohesion
- To investigate any complaints in relation to the policy and to take appropriate action

Implementation

The concept of community cohesion links into many aspects of everyday life at our school. The school works positively towards the inclusion of all the children and the ethos of the school is one of a caring, nurturing and encouraging environment (See Equalities Policy).

In School

- Curriculum activities which promote community cohesion
- SENCO working with staff to monitor children, provision mapping and EHCPs
- A range of high quality interventions implemented
- Access to agencies
- Counselling available to children with needs
- School Council
- A wide range of after-school clubs and activities
- Sports coaching
- Special themed days
- Visits for all new entrants
- Comprehensive induction programme
- Celebration Worship- Star of the Week, Dojo Winner, Golden Book and Christian Values Bears
- Musical performances
- Collective Worship
- Purchase of resources which reflect the Diversity of the UK
- Home – school links with Parents and Carers
- Helping parents to access information, providing support or signposting them as to where they can seek the appropriate advice
- Financial support through Pupil Premium funding
- Open mornings/evenings
- Volunteers helping in school
- Parent/Teacher consultations
- Parent Workshops (Phonics, Reading, School Ready, Online Safety)
- PTA
- Sports Day

- Questionnaires
- Parent Governors
- Tapestry (EYFS)
- Website and Social Media
- Parent texting service
- Weekly newsletters
- School productions
- School leavers assembly
- Transition work between Secondary Schools e.g. visits and summer school
- Headteacher links with other schools in the area through meetings and briefings
- Sports activities/competitions with other schools in the local area
- Teacher/Governor meetings and training with staff from Cluster schools
- Moderation e.g. Cluster and EYFS teacher and HT are County moderators
- With the local community
- Services at St James' Church
- Monday collective worship led by Rev John Sephton
- Links with Ormskirk Rotary Club
- Remembrance Day
- Visits from guest speakers
- Visits from the community police officers/fire service/ambulance service/air ambulance
- Educational visits
- Community lettings (e.g. Yoga, Dance)
- Road Safety
- Awareness of local events and what is happening (carnival)
- Sponsorship/donations e.g. by local businesses
- School has a Defibrillator
- Residential

Beyond our immediate environment both Nationally & Internationally

- Rotary Shoe Box Appeal
- Toilet Twinning
- Red Nose Day
- Sports Relief
- Children in Need Day
- Poppy Appeal
- Links with other schools
- Educational trips

Extended Services

- Before school we offer a Breakfast Club from 8.00 to 8.50am
- A homework club is available from 3.30 to 4.30pm during term time
- An after school club is available from 4.30 to 5.30pm during term time
- A Holiday Club is available to meet all children's needs within the SHARES Cluster Group
- Over the school year we aim to deliver some varied extra-curricular activities for our children such as:
 - Let's Get Cooking
 - Yoga
 - Sports' Clubs
 - Coding Club
 - Ethos Group
 - School Council
 - Peace Proms' Choir

Monitoring & review, policy into practice

The Standards and Effectiveness Committee will work alongside the Headteacher to regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's development planning.