

Netherthorpe Primary School Community Cohesion Policy

Definition

For schools, 'Community Cohesion' can be summarised under three headings:

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Helping children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst also promoting shared values, to promote awareness of human rights and to apply and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action – for example through the new 'Identity and Diversity: living together in the UK' strand within citizenship education.

Inclusion

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

Engagement and Extended Services

- To provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds.
- To build positive relations with different schools and communities.
- To provide extended services.
- To seek 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.

Aims

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 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

How our school promotes community cohesion

Our approach includes:

- Working with local places of worship.
- Charity days/events.
- Encouraging visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children.

- Encouraging the pupils' voice through Pupil Voice and Philosophy for Children.
- Promoting engagement with parents/carers through: parents evenings, curriculum events, community events, the signposting of parent and child courses, family learning.
- Fostering multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police, social care and health professionals.
- Providing access/signposting to extended services and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours, including adult and family learning.
- Promoting community cohesion and social equality through LA and school admission arrangements.

With other schools these include:

- Sporting fixtures and festivals.
- Learning about life in other countries.
- Links with schools within the UK to learn about life in other parts of our own country.
- Collaborative working on cluster projects and partnership agreements enable us to share good practice and offer pupils the opportunity to meet and learn from other young people from different backgrounds and with other local schools.
- A comprehensive up-to-date list of activities and events promoting Community Cohesion can be accessed through the Headteacher's Termly Reports to Governors.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Scheme for Netherthorpe School and will be reviewed regularly.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Gray: March 2016
Next review: March 2019