



**St Peter & St Paul**  
CofE Primary School

# Community Cohesion Policy 2020-2023

(This policy has been drafted having regard for the school's Christian ethos.)

	Date	Signed
Agreed by Staff:	July 2020	Mr Steve Ginn Head Teacher
Agreed by Governors	July 2020	Mrs N Ford Chair of Governors
Lead:	Senior Leadership Team/Strategic Leadership Committee	
Review date:	July 2023	

## Our School Mission Statement

We see it as our mission to grow the whole child - intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. To provide them, within a Christian environment, with every learning opportunity possible and to empower them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

## **Rationale:**

At St. Peter and St. Paul Church of England Primary School the curriculum aims to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We believe that as migration and economic changes alter the shape of our increasingly diverse local communities, it is more important than ever that our school plays a full part in promoting cohesion. St. Peter and St. Paul's CE Primary School works hard to secure a thriving, cohesive community, while recognising the vital part it has to play in building a cohesive society for the future. We recognise that our local society is not as culturally diverse as some and we need to take account of this in relation to community cohesion.

## **Aim:**

At St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School we aim to show that through our ethos and curriculum we can promote a common sense of identity and support diversity, showing pupils how different communities can be united by common experiences and values.

We aim to address issues of how we live together and how we deal with change in the diverse community of the wider world.

## **What is community cohesion?**

By community cohesion we mean working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging for all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and cultures is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life chances are available to all; a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in schools, in the workplace, and in the wider community.

## **Community from the perspective of St. Peter and St Paul CE Primary School:**

For St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School, the term 'community' has a number of dimensions including:

- The school community – the pupils it serves, their families and the staff of the school.
- The community in which the school is located – the school within the community of Eye, and the people who live and work in the town.

- The community of the Church.
- The community of Britain – all schools are by definition part of this community.
- The global community

### **How does St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School contribute towards community cohesion?**

At our school, we consider ourselves responsible, in partnership with parents, carers and other stakeholders, for equipping our pupils to live and thrive alongside people from different backgrounds.

The school's contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the three following headings:

- Teaching, learning and the 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.
- 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.
- Engagement and ethos – to provide a means for children and their families to interact with and build positive relations with people from different backgrounds, (including links with different schools and communities locally, across the country and internationally).

### **Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum:**

It is the aim of St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School to ensure a consistently high quality of teaching and learning that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values and builds pupils understanding of the diverse world in which they live. It does this by encouraging its pupils to recognise and respect similarities and differences to be found in different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. The curriculum provides a range of opportunities to facilitate this growth in understanding. The role of religious education in the school is pivotal in this as well and as part of that children study the major belief systems from around the world. This is intended to give them a greater understanding and empathy with global faith communities. Opportunities for discussing issues of identity and diversity will be integrated across the curriculum.

## **St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School will ensure that:**

- Lessons across the curriculum promote common values and help pupils to value differences and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping – for example, opportunities will be given in PSHE, RE and Collective Worship Assemblies for pupils to discuss issues of identity and diversity and what it means to live together in the UK.
- A programme of curriculum-based activity is provided whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through visits and meetings with members of different communities.
- Support is provided for pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) to enable them to achieve at the highest possible level in English.
- Children are given an effective voice and that there is ongoing involvement of pupils in the governance and organisation of the school in a way that teaches them to participate in and make a difference to life in school, the local community and the world beyond.
- In our school 'Pupil Voice' is evident through the following groups that meet regularly: School Council and Worship our Way (WOW). These groups involve pupils making decisions for our school, working together to make a positive contribution for everyone.

## **Equity and Excellence**

St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary school will continue to focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic status. We ensure that all pupils and adults within the school are treated with respect and supported to achieve their potential.

The school tracking systems are used to evaluate progress and to identify vulnerable groups.

St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary's admissions criteria recognises the importance of admission arrangements that promote community cohesion and social equity.

## **Engagement and Ethos:**

### **a) School to school**

The school investigates ways to broaden its partnership with other schools both locally and further afield. The means of developing these relationships may be through e-mail, correspondence or the Internet. Making links with schools from other contrasting places is an ambition; for example links with schools in other parts of the world.

## **b) School to parents/carers and the community**

- Activities to broaden links with the local and wider community are promoted.
- Established links and multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies are strongly maintained. (Support services, police, social care and health professionals).
- Engagement with parents/carers is encouraged through social activities, curriculum 'meetings', parent and child courses/learning together and family liaison work.
- Provision of extended services – in particular, endeavouring to bring parents together from different backgrounds through parenting and family support, as well as community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours (including adult and family learning, health care and after school clubs).

### **Monitoring, reviewing and assessing arrangements:**

This policy will be regularly reviewed by staff and governors to ensure that it is effective in securing positive relations between different groups and shared communities. It is to be viewed in conjunction with our Equalities Policy to ensure that our school provides a fair and welcoming environment for pupils and adults from a wide variety of backgrounds and will be underpinned by the Christian ethos of our Church of England Primary School.

### **Period of Review:**

To be reviewed every 3 years.

## Document History

Version	Date	Comments
Issue 1	March 2013	Initial draft adopted by governors
Issue 2	June 2014	Reviewed and adopted with minor amendments including addition of specific examples of how the school fosters community cohesion. Review period changed to three years.
Issue 3	March 2017	Reviewed and amended to update 'Pupil Voice' groups.
Issue 4	July 2020	Reviewed and updated in line with current practice.