

WELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Community Cohesion Policy

Policy confirmed by the Governing Body of Welton Primary School on:

Date: 3.12.14

Signed: J SNELL (Head Teacher)

Signed: G CHINNERY (Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed in: DECEMBER 2016

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. What is community cohesion?
3. What Welton Primary School does to promote community cohesion?

1. Introduction

The curriculum of Welton Primary School promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We already consider this part of our role, and already work in ways which promote community cohesion. Our school is a thriving, cohesive community and we continue to play a vital part in making our school an even more cohesive society.

Welton Primary School 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. We wish to show that through our ethos and curriculum Welton Primary School can promote a common sense of identity and support diversity, showing pupils how different communities can be united by common experiences and values.

2. 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 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

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

- the school community - the pupils it serves, their families and the school's staff;
- the community within which the school is located - the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in that area;
- the community of Britain - all schools are by definition part of this community;
- the global community - formed by EU and international links.

3. What Welton Primary School does to promote community cohesion?

Our school contributes towards community cohesion:

Welton Primary School pupils are encouraged to mix and work alongside their peers in order that they will live, work and thrive alongside people from many different backgrounds. Welton Primary School does not have a diverse pupil population however the curriculum provides opportunity and awareness that we are living in a multicultural society. Children are given the opportunity to study the culture and faiths of other countries through humanities projects, religious education, ICT, art, drama, dance, food and whole school projects such as themed weeks.

Welton Primary School contributes to community cohesion through the three following ways:

- Teaching, learning and curriculum: We 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.
- Equality and excellence: The school ensures equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible. We aim to remove barriers so that pupils can access and participate in learning. This helps to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
- Engagement and ethos: 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.

Teaching, learning and curriculum

Welton Primary School has a high standard of teaching and curriculum provision that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values and builds pupils' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them, recognising similarities and appreciating different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Opportunities for discussing issues of identity and diversity are integrated across the curriculum.

Welton Primary School ensures that:

- Lessons across the curriculum promote common values and help pupils to value differences and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping - for example, opportunities in PHSE/SMSC lessons for pupils to discuss issues of identity and diversity and what it means 'to live together in the UK'.
- A programme of curriculum based activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through visits to places of worship, lessons provided by members of different communities. E.g. dance, cooking, faith and festivals.
- Support for pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) to enable them to achieve at the highest possible level in English.
- The pupils have an effective voice in the organisation of the school. This teaches them to participate in and make a difference in school, the local community and beyond. Pupils understand that their opinion is valued and evidence of the decisions they make are placed on the "Our Voice in Our School" notice board.

Equity and excellence

The school continues to focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic statuses, ensuring that pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential. The school tracking systems and RaiseOnline enables us to evaluate progress of different groups and to tackle any underperformance. The school has effective monitoring of incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment (See inclusion policy). Pupils from particular groups are monitored closely to ensure that they are totally inclusive.

Engagement and ethos

School to school: The school continually seeks to broaden the ways that we can work in partnership with other schools. We look at our local schools as well as schools in other authorities. We have developed links with a school in India. Welton Primary School is proactive in making links within the local community. Christmas celebrations are held at Writhlington Secondary School, many sports activities are supported by the students and staff at Somervale Secondary school and our Arts curriculum is supported by Norton Hill Secondary School.

School to parents and the community

Good partnership activities are encouraged within the school and the wider community to include:

- Working together with community representatives, for example through bringing community representatives into school to work with the pupils on community projects e.g. local carnivals, markets etc
- Maintaining strong links and multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the childrens' support service, the police and social care, EMAS and health professionals.
- Engagement with parents through coffee mornings, parent evenings, parent and child courses and family liaison work.

Named Co-ordinator

The school has a named coordinator (Amanda Audritt) who has the responsibility to promote Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural themes and Community Cohesion within the school. Her responsibilities also include:

- a) Sustaining and developing links with partner schools within the local, national and global community.
- b) Developing community cohesion within the school's locality.
- c) Providing and sharing the evidence of good practice.

Websites of interest

The Specialist Schools network, led by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, with advice and information available at:

www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk

Information on extended schools partnerships and networks at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ete/extendedschools

www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools

To be reviewed 2016