



St James CE Primary School, Haslingden

COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY	
Written By	Caitlin Dunne
Date	24/03/2023
Review Date	24/03/2025

Growing in God's Love, Learning as we go.

ENDURANCE FORGIVENESS PEACE
FRIENDSHIP TRUST KOINONIA
THANKFULNESS

Vision

We are a safe, loving, supportive, Christian family which values each child's individuality and uniqueness created in the image of God. We nurture the talents given by God to inspire pupils to achieve and succeed, and foster a sense of awe and wonder of God's world:

- Form foundations of lifelong faith through Gospel values and sincere, meaningful prayer.
 - Guide Pupils to determine their own personal moral values, and a respect and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life.
- Develop future citizens who cherish the world in which they live and their responsibilities within it.
- A curriculum which has a breadth of experience and equality of opportunity for all.

School motto

Growing in God's love, learning as we go.

School values

Endurance, Forgiveness, Friendship, Koinonia, Peace, Thankfulness, Trust

Policy 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; Equality policy, Equality charter, EAL policy, SEND policy, Inclusion policy and PSHE policy.

Aims and Objectives

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...

- High quality, leading to successful learning.
- Tailored to the needs of our children.
- Fun, purposeful and challenging.
- Designed to raise standards and ensure good progress in every class.
- Proactive in building confidence in each child, and equipping them with skills for lifelong learning.
- Reflective- we will constantly strive to find better ways to do things.

Our school community will be...

- Inclusive- everyone (children, staff, parents, governors) is important
- 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-looking- we will work in partnership with other schools, groups and the wider community, to strengthen our own.
- Aware of everyone's need to be and feel safe.

We will use these aims in everything that we do, and we will make our values clear in all aspects of our work.

Community Cohesion

“Community cohesion describes the ability of all communities to function and grow in harmony together rather than in conflict. It can therefore be used as a measure of how well different minority and majority communities develop and relate to each other”

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 school and 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 (Haslingden) and the people who live or work in that area.
- **The community of the UK**- all schools are by definition part of this community.
- **The global community**- formed by international links (READ Foundation School, Basnara)

How do we contribute to Community Cohesion?

Core Values

We have seven core values, one of which is Koinonia – meaning fellowship and community. This is promoted in many ways over the school year and embedded into our work to highlight this vital aspect of our school.

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 develop the skills of participation.

Equity and Excellence

We aim to ensure equal opportunities for all children so that they can achieve their full potential. 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 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 background so building positive relationships. This refers to:

- Links with different schools (St. Johns, Stonefold, READ Foundation School, Basnara) and groups within our community.
- Provision of extended services.
- Opportunities for children and their families.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every member of 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, the PSHE curriculum particularly by the implementation of SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and the work from the PSHE Association, of which school is a member.

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.

In school

- Curriculum activities which promote community cohesion
- SENCO working with staff to monitor children and promote provision mapping
- A range of high quality interventions implemented
- Sensory room session available to children with emotional needs
- Learning Mentor sessions to support all children in need
- Circle-time
- School council
- A range of after-school clubs and activities
- Sports coaching
- Special themed days

- Visits for all new entrants
- Performances within school
- Worship and assemblies (encouragement from outside visitors and sources)
- Purchase of resources which reflect our Diversity & Equal Opportunities Policy

With Parents and Carers

- Helping parents to access information, providing support or signposting them as to where they can seek the appropriate advice
- Initialising and supporting parents through the school family liaison process
- Financial support through Pupil Premium funding
- Opening mornings/evenings
- Parents/friends of the school helping in school
- Parent/Teacher meetings
- Parent workshops
- Sports Day
- Questionnaires
- Parent Governors
- Website
- Facebook
- Parent texting service
- Termly Newsletter
- School productions
- School leavers assembly
- Community and Charity events
- Information screens

With other schools

- Sports activities/competitions with other schools in the local area
- Teacher/Governor meetings and trainings with staff for link schools
- Moderation with link schools
- Collaboration with partner school
- Link with schools abroad and at home

With the local community

- Services at St. James Church, Haslingden
- Assemblies by Father David and Reverend Judith
- Remembrance Day
- Visit from guest speakers
- Governor visits
- Local agency visitors including police, fire, etc.
- Educational visits
- Inviting friends of the school to see our school productions
- Road Safety
- Awareness of local events and what is happening
- Sponsorship/donations, e.g. by local businesses

- Year 6 Residential trip

Beyond our immediate environment both Nationally and Internationally

- Red Nose Day
- Sports Relief
- Children in Need Day
- Hello Yellow Day (Mental Health Awareness)
- Poppy Appeal
- Charity support (children's choices)
- Link with other schools
- Year 6 Residential trip
- Educational day trips

Extended Services

- Before school we offer a Breakfast Club from 8:00am-8:45am
- After school clubs available throughout the year
- Over the school year we aim to deliver some varied after activities for our children such as:
 - Football
 - Dance
 - Multi-sports
 - Art/craft
 - Cooking
 - Book club
 - SATs practice
- Lunchtime clubs are also available, e.g. friendship, board games, sports, etc.

Monitoring and review, policy into practice

The named person Caitlin Dunne for Community Cohesion 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 action planning.