



# Community Cohesion at Belgrave Primary School



***The curriculum for all maintained schools should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*** Education Act

2002

***Schools have a duty to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.*** Race Relations Amendment

Act 2000

**At Belgrave Primary School, we recognise the importance of developing community cohesion. Through our ethos and curriculum, we promote discussion of a common sense of identity and support diversity, showing pupils how different communities can be united by shared values and common experiences.**

## **What is community cohesion?**

By community cohesion, we mean working towards a society in which there is a 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.

By creating opportunities for pupils' achievement and enabling every child to achieve their potential, we can make a significant contribution to long term community cohesion.

## **What does community mean from our perspective?**

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

- The school community – the children we serve, their parents, and families, the school's staff and governing board, and community users of the school's facilities and services;
- The community within which our school is located – the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in the area. This applies not just to the immediate neighbourhood but also to the local authority and town within which our school is located;
- The UK community - all schools are by definition part of this community;
- The global community – Europe and international links.

In addition, our school creates communities – for example, by networking with similar or different schools, by working with schools that are part of the Dee Partnership, and by working collaboratively in other clusters and in other models of partnership.

## **How does our school contribute towards community cohesion?**

As a starting point, we build community cohesion by promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for different groups of pupils within our school. But alongside this we also examine any inequalities and encourage a strong respect for diversity. We are responsible for equipping our pupils to live and thrive alongside people from many

different backgrounds. We promote shared values and encourage our pupils to actively engage with others to understand what they all hold in common.

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

- **Teaching, learning and curriculum** – helping children 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.
- **Equity and excellence** – to ensure 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 and their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations: including links with different schools and communities and the provision of extended services with 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.

### **What do we need to consider in promoting community cohesion?**

Under the headings set out above, the approach we take includes a range of activities, some of which take place within our own school, whilst others take place between different schools or between schools, parents and local and wider communities.

### **What does the school provide within its teaching, learning and curriculum provision?**

As an effective school we have a high standard of teaching, learning and curriculum provision that supports high standards of attainment, promotes shared values and builds pupils' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them. We encourage children to recognise similarities and appreciate different cultures, religions, beliefs, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. There are high expectations of success, with all pupils expected and encouraged by teachers and parents to achieve their potential. We provide opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and help pupils to value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. This is taught through British Values in assemblies and woven through cross-curricular links in lessons. We continue to develop a programme of curriculum based activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through fieldwork, visits, assemblies, workshops and visitors into school. Our curriculum is designed so that Geography topics focus on a local, national and international unit each academic year.

### **How does the school promote equality and excellence?**

We already have a focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds, and of different socio-economic statuses, abilities and interests, ensuring that pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential. We are a No Outsiders School where everyone is welcome – no one is the same, but everyone is equal. As part of our No Outsiders ethos we recognise and celebrate difference. We analyse assessment results to keep track of the relative performance of different groups and to tackle underperformance by any particular group.

We have effective approaches in place to deal with bullying and monitor carefully whether pupils from different groups are more likely to be victims or be disciplined.

### **How does the school engage with its communities?**

#### **School to school**

- We work very closely with our partner schools in the Dee Partnership cluster especially the two feeder secondary schools and local independent senior school, as well as the independent pre-school setting located next door. The children have attended a number of sporting and academic events where they meet and interact regularly. Teachers have come in to the school to support teaching and learning and pupils making use of facilities at the secondary school.
- We also participate in activities and events within the Local Authority such as sport, music and festivals, which all provide a means for our pupils to interact with pupils from other schools.
- We are a partner school with Ecole Jukes Ferry, Pont L'Abbe in Brittany, France.

#### **School to parents and the community**

The school has excellent partnership activities with parents and the local and wider community which include:

- A thriving team of supportive volunteers from the parent body and local community.
- Organised activities for the community: eg. Christmas fair, Welcome Back event, switching on the local shops lights at Christmas and summer fair.
- Contributing to community events.
- A strong, positive and supportive governing board.
- Hosting community events Bringing community representatives into school to work with the pupils or to support learning: eg. the local church reverend and parent volunteers.
- Visits to local places of worship (eg. Mosques and churches) and the local police and fire brigade.
- Bi-annual Inter-faith week which involves at least ten visitors from different religions and faiths into school to work with pupils.
- Local engagement through links with community groups and organisations, enabling them to play a role in the school and encouraging pupils to make a positive contribution in the local area: eg. Chester library summer reading programme, Local community gardening club and community centre group.
- Intergenerational week where the older members of the community come into school to teach playground songs and games that they learnt at school.
- Ensuring that the pupil voice is heard and able to effect change through the school council, in a way that facilitates their participation and ability to make a difference in school.
- Maintaining strong links and multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police, social care and health professionals.
- Sixth Form volunteer readers from local secondary school and 6 regular volunteer readers from the community.
- Links with local businesses including MBNA through Enabling Enterprise programme, the local shops opposite school and public services teaching children to become active citizens.
- Having secondary school pupils on work placement.
- Regular raising money for charities which include local (Save The Family, Countess of Chester), National (Children In Need, Diabetes) and international (Save The Children, Oxfam, Fair Trade).
- Parents and governors fully aware of No Outsiders ethos and teaching
- Work experience pupils
- Associate Teachers
- Interview at Chester University
- Community grounds days biannually

### Extended services

The school provides extended provision in terms of a morning club, an extensive and range of morning and after school clubs including yoga, chess, street dance, art, dodgeball, newspaper, recorder, tag rugby, band, football, basketball, gardening, Lego Technic and Makaton as well as extended care until 5.30pm.

