

St Paul's CE (VC) First School

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Community Cohesion Policy

Updated May 2016

## Community Cohesion Policy

### Rationale

There is a duty for school to promote community cohesion under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. As migration and economic change after the shape of our increasingly diverse local community, it is considered in a way that responds positively to the changing characteristics of our community.

At St Pauls CE First School, as a Christian School, we promote the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of all our pupils to prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of later life. Our Christian ethos promotes an active demonstration of love and care for all people, with responsibility especially for those within our local community. Consequently community cohesion is positively promoted as part of our Christian ethos.

At St Paul's CE First School we adhere to the principles of Every Child Matters and believe it is our responsibility to ensure that all pupils in school experience these principles in a way that lead to integration, belonging and success.

At St Paul's School we recognise the importance of all our policies and practices being governed by the principles of community cohesion and seek to ensure a culture of equality for all, celebration of diversity and promotion of Christian values that result in inclusion and integration, is promoted.

At St Paul's we are responsible for equipping pupils to live and thrive alongside people from many different backgrounds. The pupil population is predominantly of one faith, socio-economic and ethnic group therefore we acknowledge our responsibility to create and provide opportunities for meaningful interaction between pupils from different backgrounds that would not normally occur.

### Aims

1. The school aims to promote community cohesion reflecting a range of groups within our community through establishing meaningful, on-going community links.

2. The school aims to aid smooth transition at all stages for all parents and carers by providing high quality access to relevant information and extended services.
3. The school aims to provide good community relations by organising regular inter-cultural exchanges through visits or visitors.
4. The school aims to engage and work in partnership with all families in the school community to aid cohesion seeking views of all parents and carers
5. The school aims to actively contribute to the development of pupils' sense of identity, knowledge and understanding of diversity, promoting equality and community cohesion through curriculum provision.
6. The school aims to ensure all staff effectively contributes to community cohesion through the differing roles they undertake to promote shared values and challenge discrimination.
7. The school aims to engage all pupils from minority groups effectively fostering integration and cohesion by ensuring progression for all pupils and closing the gap for minority groups.
8. The school aims to provide an environment that promotes community cohesion, equality and diversity through policies and practices that are visible through display.
9. The school aims to promote community cohesion relating to local national and global communities through regular identified activities and relationships.
10. The school aims to maintain strong links and multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police and social care and health professionals.
11. The school aims to ensure an effective voice and involvement of pupils in the governance and organisation of the school in a way that teaches them to participate in and make a difference in school, in their local community and beyond.

There are three areas where we can contribute most to Community Cohesion.

1. Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Promoting community cohesion through teaching, learning and the curriculum is clearly at the heart of this duty. 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. Subjects, including PSHE (including the use of SEAL), RE, History and Geography have direct relevance to promoting community cohesion.

## 2. Equality Opportunities

Striving to ensure all pupils achieve their potential, irrespective of ethnic, social economic or other differences. This is already a clear focus for our school and is another importance aspect of promoting community cohesion.

We are committed to narrowing, and ultimately closing, the gap between the progress and attainment of children from different backgrounds and their peers.

## 3. Engagement and Extended Services

St Paul's will benefit most from the involvement of local partners and other organisations. Our school will promote community cohesion through work St Paul's will benefit most from the involvement of local partners and other organisations. Our school will promote community cohesion through work that will provide reasonable means from children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including: links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; and 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.

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

This policy will be reviewed annually and will be considered in conjunction with the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy and Equal Opportunities.