

# Elmsett C. of E. V.C.P. School

## Cohesion Policy

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## Document Control

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Updated:	October 2016
Person responsible:	Headteacher
Written by:	Headteacher
Monitored by:	Headteacher
Reviewed by:	Resources Committee
Next review:	Spring 2020 or as needs dictate
Adopted on:	
Signed:	

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The governing body of every school has a duty to promote the well-being of pupils at the school and to promote community cohesion. This duty came into effect on 1 September 2007. From 1 September 2008, HMCI has a duty under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as inserted by section 154 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) to report on the contribution made by schools to community cohesion.

## **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. How will Elmsett Primary School contribute towards community cohesion? The curriculum at Elmsett School aims to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We believe that as migration and economic change alter the shape of our community, it is more important than ever that our school plays a full part in promoting community cohesion which will help to build a cohesive society for the future. We wish 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.

To develop a comprehensive policy and plan of action, we need to reflect upon the context of our school's community.

Elmsett School is a small primary school, situated in a rural village in Suffolk. There is limited affordable family housing in the village and, in common with many rural villages, young people find it difficult to buy houses in the village in which they grew up, which has an effect on the age and nature of the population of Elmsett. The community consists mainly of White British citizens and Christianity is the main faith practiced.

The school currently has 4% ethnic minority pupils, and no EAL pupils. There is, however, quite a high proportion of pupils on the school's special needs register.

The health, well-being and cohesion of our local community are important to our school community.

## **3. OUR STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- We will involve all stakeholders in planning for effective community cohesion.
- The Governing Body will take positive steps to promote good community relations.
- We will challenge any forms of prejudice towards groups and individuals.
- All teachers will promote community cohesion through a diverse curriculum.
- We will assess the impact of our community cohesion programme to determine adverse or differential impact on groups or individuals.

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

## **Teaching, Learning and the 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.

Many subjects, including PSHE, RE, History and Geography have direct relevance to promoting community cohesion and the following areas may be useful when considering this.

### **Curriculum areas:**

- Religious education
- PSHE
- SEAL

### **Relevant Policies:**

- Single Equalities Policy
- Race Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Disability Discrimination Policy

### **Access & Inclusion:**

- Admissions arrangements
- Evaluating progress/attainment of different groups
- Bullying, discrimination, racial incidents & behaviour monitoring
- Attendance monitoring, first day calling

### **Student Voice:**

- School Council
- Eco Council
- Team Captains
- Sports Captains
- Committees

### **Other key areas:**

- Sustainable schools
- Healthy schools
- Home/school agreement

## **Special Events**

- Themed weeks
- Enrichment days
- Themed days linked to National Events eg. Sport Relief, Red Nose Day, Children in Need
- Community Events publicised by the school
- Global link through Gambia Link and school in New Jeshwang
- Celebration Services at St. Peter's Church and The Methodist Church.
- School Trips, including residential trips
- Family Assemblies
- Visiting specialists/instructors
- Learning cafés

## **Equity and Excellence**

Striving to ensure all pupils achieve, irrespective of ethnic, gender, socio- economic or other differences. This is already a clear focus for our school and is another important aspect of promoting community cohesion. We are committed to narrowing the gap between the progress and attainment of children from different backgrounds.

## **Engagement and Extended Services**

Elmsett School will benefit from the involvement of local partners and other organisations. Our school will promote community cohesion through work that will provide reasonable means for children and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including: links with different schools and communities and opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

## **4. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING**

There will be an internal evaluation of this policy through:

- The school development plan
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Disability Discrimination Action Plan
- Race Equality Policy
- Single Equality Policy

There will be an annual report on community cohesion demonstrating:

- Progress made
- Outcomes achieved
- Work in progress
- Amendments to the scheme.