



Community Cohesion Policy

Adopted by Governors: May 2013

Committee Link: School and Community

Review Timetable: 3 Years

Renewal Date: May 2016

Community Cohesion Policy

1. Introduction

There is a duty for schools to promote community cohesion under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Community Cohesion has been defined as promoting “a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the work place, in schools and the wider community.”

2. How does Millthorpe School contribute towards community cohesion?

The school is pro-active in promoting community cohesion by:

- ensuring equality of opportunity for all learners
- encouraging a strong sense of belonging and a shared vision by all members of the school community
- promoting high standards of behaviour
- providing opportunities for pupils to participate in a wide range of activities and volunteering opportunities in order to contribute to the community cohesion within the local neighbourhood and beyond
- engaging constructively and generously with other schools and the wider community to help build real links to bind society

This is achieved in the following ways:

Curriculum

The school's curriculum is designed to:

- help teach pupils tolerance and understanding of other cultures and faiths
- promote shared values and challenge prejudice
- promote respect for the rule of law
- promote awareness of human rights and of their responsibility to uphold and defend them
- develop skills of participation and responsible action

Equity and Excellence

The school's policies and practices are designed to ensure equal opportunities for all members of the school community to be successful at the very highest level in any given activity. This is achieved by maximising access and participation in learning and to a wide range of extra-curricular activities; also by actively seeking to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.

Engagement and Extended services

- The school will provide opportunities for all members of the community to understand better other cultures by developing links with other schools, the local community, nationally and around the globe.
- The school provides a range of extended services with opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to participate in activities and to receive services which develop positive interaction and promote achievement for all groups.
- The school co-operates with other schools in the city.

3. The school seeks to promote community cohesion at different levels of "community," for example:

3.1 The school community

- the significant peer support systems within school, including: paired reading scheme and language leaders
- pupils have a strong voice in decisions that affect their learning and many undertake additional roles with significant responsibilities, including school and house councils
- by tracking of all pupils comprehensively, with particular consideration for targeted pupils such as those with English as an additional language, those who qualify for free meals and those from ethnic minorities, and making active interventions to reduce differentials of outcomes for different groups.

3.2 The local community

- taking part in an extensive inter school fixtures other schools in the city and beyond
- providing opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of events and competitions with other schools, such as technology and mathematics competitions
- promoting community use of sports facilities
- staff attending Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings
- engaging with a variety of community groups through activities such as carol singing at residential homes for older people
- distributing the school magazine Millthorpien (free of charge) to parents and the local community
- encouraging the local community to participate in a wide range of events (concerts, productions, fun evenings etc)

3.3 The UK community

- extending and developing the school curriculum through a wide range of trips to places of interest in the UK and by participating in national events and activities
- actively using assemblies to promote awareness of national issues such as homelessness and racial prejudice
- the organising of annual charity days to support national charities, including Red Nose Day and the Christmas collection for homeless people.

3.4 The global community

- providing an extensive range of residential and exchange opportunities in different countries to allow pupils to experience and learn from other cultures
- employing language assistants from other countries to support the work of the French, German and Spanish departments; working with small groups of pupils to improve language skills and promoting a better understanding of other European cultures
- maintaining a Global School Partnership with a school in Ghana
- promoting the Fairtrade initiative throughout the school

4. Other relevant school policies:

- Equality Policy.
- Curriculum policy.
- Accessibility Plan
- Behaviour policy.