



## Community Cohesion Policy

St Columba's Catholic Primary School is a community where:

- All are equal because we are all made in the image and likeness of God
- A common vision and sense of belonging for all is engendered.
- A true and sincere appreciation and celebration of diversity and difference is embraced.
- A full inclusion and equality of opportunity for all is rigorously promoted
- Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds , within the school, the parish and the local community.

We work towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging; 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; a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed.

For schools, the term 'community' has a number of dimensions including

- The school community – the pupils it serves, their families and the school's staff;
- The community within which the school is located – the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in that area;
- The community of Britain – all schools are by definition part of this community;
- The global community – formed by EU and international links.
- Schools themselves create communities – for example, the networks formed by schools in the same neighbourhood.

Schools' contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the three following headings:

Teaching, learning and curriculum

Our aim is to teach pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

We have a high standard of teaching and curriculum provision that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values and builds pupils' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them, recognising similarities and appreciating different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds.



### St Columba's Catholic Primary School

- Lessons across the curriculum promote common values to help pupils to value differences and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping – for example, opportunities in citizenship classes for pupils to discuss issues of identity and diversity and what it means to 'live together in the UK'
- A programme of curriculum based activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through visits and visitors from different communities.
- 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 through to School Council.
- A rich, varied programme of collective worship and an understanding of community and diversity is enriched through visits and visitors from different communities.
- 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 through to School Council.
- A rich, varied programme of collective worship.
- The study of different religions based on the Here I Am Scheme.

Equity and excellence – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, removing barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and eliminating variations in outcomes for different groups

We focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic statuses, ensuring that all pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential.

We do this by:

- The school tracking systems which enable us to evaluate progress of different groups and to tackle underperformance by any particular group.
- Monitoring incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.
- Monitoring whether pupils from particular groups are more likely to be excluded or disciplined than others and ensure there are appropriate behaviour and discipline policies in place to deal with this.
- Ensuring our school admissions criteria emphasises the importance of admission arrangements that promote community cohesion and social equity

Engagement and ethos – to provide a means for children, young people and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including links with different schools and communities locally, across the country and internationally.



## **St Columba's Catholic Primary School**

We shall

- Broaden ways in that we work in partnership with other schools
- Develop relationships with others through visits and the internet
- Share resources, experiences and opportunities to provide a means for pupils to interact through intercultural activities such as sport and drama
- Maintaining strong links between the school and other local agencies
- Engaging with parents through coffee mornings, curriculum evenings and family liaison work
- Signposting and accompanying parents to extended services, for parenting and family support for adult learning.

Feb 10