Farnborough Road Infant School
Community Cohesion Policy

“Learning, Caring and Achieving Together”

We are committed to supporting community cohesion by:
- developing a common vision and sense of belonging
- developing an appreciation of the diversity of people’s backgrounds, culture and circumstance
- creating opportunities for all students to achieve their potential
- Building strong and positive relationships in the workplace, in schools, in the local community and in the wider community.

We recognise that this is of particular importance in a school which is predominantly mono-cultural preparing its pupils for life and work in a multi-cultural society and world.

The term ‘community’ has a number of dimensions for Farnborough Road Infant School including:
- The school community - the children it serves, their parents, the staff and governing body and community users of the school’s facilities and services
- The communities created by the networks we establish with schools, colleges, work-based learning providers and other partners
- The local community of Southport, Sefton and Merseyside
- The U.K. Community
- The Global Community.

How does Farnborough Road Infant School contribute towards community cohesion?

We help to build community cohesion by:
- Promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for all pupils irrespective of background in terms of gender, ability, culture, ethnicity, or socio-economic circumstances
- Promoting school values and encouraging pupils to engage with others to understand what they all hold in common.

The school’s contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under three headings:
- Teaching, learning and curriculum. Helping children to understand others, to value diversity, respect human rights and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action
- Equity and excellence. To ensure all pupils have equal opportunity to achieve their potential.
- Engagement and extended services. To provide opportunities for pupils to interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures. To build links with parents and different schools and communities. To provide extended services.

Where are we now?
Promoting community cohesion is already strongly embedded in our existing practice as detailed below, but we are committed to developing this aspect of our work further.

Teaching, learning and curriculum
- We are an effective school with high standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision. We have very high expectations of our pupils and we set challenging individual achievement targets.
- There are opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and help pupils’ value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. This is particularly evident in our RE, SMSC, PSHE, Citizenship, Collective Worship and Circle Time activities
- An extensive programme of curriculum and extra-curricular activities enrich pupils’ understanding of community and diversity through community access, visits to places of worship and opportunities to meet with members of different communities
- A programme of collective worship which includes themed assemblies and inputs from members of the local and wider community which promotes a sense of identity and shared understanding of their beliefs
- Support is provided for pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) and specific support for their teaching staff to remove barriers to effective learning, enable the pupils to be integrated and achieve the highest possible level in English. We have strong links with the complementary Education department of Children’s Services.
**Equity and excellence**
- We promote high standards of achievement for all pupils. We set challenging individual targets for all our pupils, monitor their progress regularly and have robust strategies of intervention and support.
- We make sure there are no barriers to achievement and work to remove disparities in attainment between different groups.
- We promote an inclusive, caring, supporting ethos and maintain a highly effective pastoral system.
- We expect the highest standards of behaviour and have effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.

**Engagement and Extended Services**

**School to school:**
- We have strong links with other schools, locally and regionally sharing good practice and staff development through Southport Learning Partnership (SLP) and Sefton Primary Heads Association (SAPH).
- We have a strong partnership with Farnborough Road Junior School and we have links with the local High Schools.
- Teachers have links with other schools and settings through a range of activities including: through the transition process, EYFS Cluster and Moderation.
- We sponsor a child in Zimbabwe through the charity SMILE and support three other main charities each year.
- Commitment to Teacher’s International Development – previous visits to South Africa, Norway, South Korea, Reggio Emilia, Italy and China.

**School to Parents and the Community**

Good partnership activities with parents and the local and wider community include:
- Pupils have a strong voice and have opportunities to take responsibility through our school council, and via questionnaires and informal talks.
- We engage with parents through the Children’s Centre and through a range of activities including workshops, parents’ evenings, reviews and targeted questionnaires. Our pastoral system working with the Attendance Welfare Officer (AWO), Sefton Advisory Inclusion Service (SAIS) and the TAF (Team Around the Family) is sensitive to the needs of families requiring additional support.
- We have strong links with external agencies including SAIS, Occupational therapy service, Speech and Language service, social care, the AWO, the health service and voluntary agencies.
- We have strong links with work-based learning providers, colleges and employers and readily provide placements for a wide variety of students and volunteers, Edge Hill University and Hugh Baird College.
- We have good links with local charities particularly through our fundraising activities and the local churches; St. John’s Church, Birkdale and Liverpool Road Methodist Church.
- We take part annually in the local Rotary Club’s Service Above Self competition and SLP’s Love My Community Event.

**Extended services**

We are an Extended School meeting the full core offer.
- Childcare - breakfast club, after school provision, holiday club, links with external providers.
- Varied menu of activities, wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs.
- Swift and easy referral e.g. good links with external agencies.
- Parenting support.
- Phase 3 Children’s Centre – operating in the community since Jan 2010.

**Monitoring and review**

This policy will be monitored by the governing body.

**Updated January 2017**

**Signed**

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