



## Ormskirk Church of England Primary School

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### Community Cohesion Policy 2023

Ormskirk CE Primary School will play its part in helping all learners to become members of a welcoming and cohesive community to fit them for life in England whose population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures. We will help all to belong and to feel equally valued as members of our school and as citizens and residents of the United Kingdom. We wish to show that, through our ethos, curriculum, actions and relationships, we promote a common sense of identity, and support diversity showing pupils how different communities can be united by shared values and common experiences. This is linked closely to our efforts to ensure that “Every Child Matters,” as well as encouraging well-being.

#### Aims

1. To ensure that there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all as part of our school and local community
2. To help children and all in school appreciate and value the diversity of people’s different backgrounds and circumstances
3. To help all learn about our nation’s history, culture, traditions and its developing and changing nature
4. To help all develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United Kingdom
5. To ensure that all are treated fairly and equally and given similar life opportunities
6. To ensure that strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in school and in its wider community.

#### 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 work place, in schools and in the wider community.

For Ormskirk C E Primary School, the term ‘community’ has a number of meanings including:

- the school community – the children it serves, their parents, carers, families, the school’s staff and governing body
- the community within which the school is located – in its geographical community and the people who live and work in the local area
- the community of Britain – all schools by definition are part of it
- the global community – formed by EU and international links

In addition, schools themselves create communities – eg, the networks formed by local schools or by schools that are part of the Learning network

### **How does Ormskirk C E Primary School contribute to Community Cohesion?**

It will be implemented across the whole school through three key areas:-

**Teaching, learning and curriculum**:-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.

We aim to ensure a high standard of teaching and curriculum provision that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values and builds children's understanding of the diversity that surrounds them, recognising similarities and appreciating different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Opportunities for discussing issues of identity and diversity will be integrated across the curriculum.

Personal and social education is very much a part of the school curriculum and part of the children's all round development. The school participates in the Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning programme ( SEAL ) which includes multicultural resources.

An extensive programme of curricular and extra-curricular activities enrich children's understanding of community and diversity through fieldwork, visits, school trips and visits to places of worship.

We will ensure:-

- Lessons across the curriculum that promote common values and 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'.
- There is a programme of curriculum based activities whereby understanding of community and diversity is enriched through visits and meetings with members of different communities.
- There is support for pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) to enable them to achieve at the highest possible level in English.
- There is 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.

**Equity and excellence** – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, striving to remove barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.

We will continue to focus on and develop strategies that support us in securing high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic statuses, ensuring that pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential. Children's progress is regularly monitored and relevant strategies for interventions and support are in place. Our school expects the highest standards of

behaviour and have effective methods and approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.

**Engagement and extended services** – to provide reasonable means for 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 and the provision of extended services with 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.

**School to school**:- We will continue to broaden the ways that we work in partnership with other schools and look locally or further afield as a means of developing the relationships that support us in promoting community cohesion.

**School to parents and the community**:- Good partnership activities with the local and wider community include:

- Working together with community representatives, for example through mentoring schemes or bringing community representatives into school to work with the children, ensuring that the pupil voice is heard and able to effect change.
- Maintaining strong links and multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the youth support service, the police and social care and health professionals.
- Engagement with parents through coffee mornings, curriculum evenings, parent and child courses and family liaison work.
- Provision of extended services, and in particular bringing parents together from different backgrounds through parenting and family support and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours.

### **How does Ormskirk C E promote Community Cohesion?**

Our approach includes a range of activities: Within the school these include:

- Fundraising days/events (e.g. Comic Relief etc )
- Visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children
- Encouraging the pupils' voice through the Schools Council
- Promoting engagement with parents through parents' evenings and curriculum workshops, community events and fayres, signposting of parent and child courses, website etc.
- Strong links are fostered and encouraged, enabling multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police, social care and health professionals.
- LA and school admission arrangements promote community cohesion and social equality.
- Promotion of extended services within our school.

With other schools these include:

- Sporting fixtures and tournaments (friendlies and competitive)
- Chess competitions

Through our work and partnerships, we will continue to promote cohesion and provide a common point of communications for a wide range of people. We will equip our children to make a positive contribution, to care for and contribute to the community, to understand human rights and gain an international perspective of their world. We will develop responsible young citizens who support community cohesion. This policy will make a key contribution to the school's positive ethos. The Head teacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the Race and Equality Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Behaviour Policy and Citizenship policy.