

Atwood Primary School

Community Cohesion Policy



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(or to meet new legislation and practices)

Community Cohesion Policy

Definition

For schools, Community Cohesion is best summarised under three headings:

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.

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.

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; the provision of extended services; and 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.

Aims

We believe our school has a key part to play in promoting community cohesion through our approach to:

- ❖ Teaching and learning: teaching pupils to understand others, promoting discussion and debate about common values and diversity
- ❖ Equity and excellence: removing barriers to access participation, offering equal opportunities to all pupils to success at the highest level possible
- ❖ Engagement and ethos: providing opportunities for children, young people and their families to interact with others from different backgrounds

How our school promotes community cohesion

Our approach includes a range of activities:

Within the school these include:

- ❖ Charity days/events (i.e. Red Nose day, harvest festival)
- ❖ Visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children
- ❖ Encouraging the pupils' voice through School Council

- ❖ Promoting engagement with parents through: parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, community events, Children's centre, 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 (friendlies and competitive)
- ❖ Collaborative working on cluster projects and partnership agreements enable us to share good practice and offer pupils the opportunity to meet and learn from other young people from different backgrounds and with other local schools
- ❖ Links are built into existing schemes of work and grounded in the curriculum with pupils working together on joint projects or activities.