

**Welburn Hall School**



**Community Cohesion Policy**

**Reviewed Dec 2014**

**Review Period: Every two years  
Next review Due: Autumn Term - 2016  
Adopted by Governors:**

**Signed by Chair of Governors:**

(FGB - 10.12.12, Minute Number )

## **Community Cohesion Policy**

### **Overview**

Welburn Hall School will play its part in helping all learners to become members of a welcoming and cohesive community. This will fit them for life in England, in the United Kingdom, whose population has an increasing 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 this country. Welburn Hall School provides education for young people with learning difficulties, physical and medical disabilities and challenging behaviour and we recognise that society is enriched and enhanced by diversity. Whilst we acknowledge that we live in rural area where the residents are predominantly white, as are our pupils, we strive to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school reflects the diversity of our country as a whole and indeed the wider world, where everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect and fairness. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To ensure that there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all as a part of our school and local community.
- 2) To help learners and all in our school appreciate and value the wide range of diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances.
- 3) To help all learn about our nation's history, culture, traditions and it's 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 the wider community.

### **Strategies**

- 1) The school will promote community cohesion by developing its teaching, learning and curriculum to help all children to learn and understand others. They will learn to value diversity whilst recognizing shared values. Many subjects, including Citizenship, Life skills, RE, History and Geography have direct relevance to promoting community cohesion.
- 2) This school will promote awareness of human rights. All will apply and defend them.
- 3) We will develop the skills of participation and responsible action necessary for living together as citizens of the United Kingdom.
- 4) We will promote equity and excellence to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed and do well.
- 5) We will provide access and participation in learning and wider activities while working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
- 6) We will provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations. This will include, where appropriate, links with different schools and communities.
- 7) Where we can, we will offer access to provision of extended service. This will create opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community, to take part in activities and receive services that build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

### **How our school promotes community cohesion**

Our approach includes a range of activities:

Within the school these include:

- ◆ Celebrating events in the Christian calendar- Harvest Festival, Christmas- Nativity, "the Big Sing" with cluster schools, The Rotary Club Christmas service, Easter.
- ◆ Collapsed curriculum days – eg recently celebrated Sukkot, previously we have celebrated Diwali, Holi and Chinese New Year.
- ◆ Charity days/events (eg. Red Nose Day, Children in Need, Unicef Day)
- ◆ Visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children
- ◆ Encouraging the pupils' voice through our Sschool Council and Student Forum.

- ◆ Eco days
- ◆ Home/School Liaison Officer
- ◆ Promoting engagement with parents/carers through; parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, community events, the signposting of parent and child courses, family learning,
- ◆ A dynamic website
- ◆ Strong links are fostered and encouraged, enabling multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police, social care, the learning disabilities team and health professionals.
- ◆ Providing access to (or signposting) extended services and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours, including adult and family learning through our open days and disability awareness days.
- ◆ LA and school admission arrangements promote community cohesion and social equality
- ◆ Working with other schools within the Special Schools network, Sports Partnership and local Cluster; these include: Sporting fixtures (friendlies and competitive), Charity events and Special celebrations e.g. Welburn Hall's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, The Big Sing (children from 5 local schools join us for this), Children in Need Day (children from neighbouring schools attend), Steam Day attended by pupils from Kirkbymoorside Primary School.
- ◆ Collaborative working on cluster projects and partnership agreements eg Norton College/Welburn College production, Shakespeare Festival, Kirkbymoorside in Bloom, Askham Bryam College
- ◆ Close links with Rotary Club- Kids Day Out, Working on projects in school

### **Outcomes**

Through our work and partnerships we will promote cohesion and provide a common point of communication for a wide range of people. We will equip young people to make a positive contribution, to care for and contribute to the community, to begin to understand human rights and develop an international perspective of their world. We will develop responsible young citizens who support cohesion. This policy will make a key contribution to Welburn Hall School's positive ethos. The Headteacher and governing body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. This policy is intrinsic to the School Development plan and it should also be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the Equalities Scheme and Behaviour Policy.