

## Baines Endowed VC Primary School Community Cohesion Policy

There is a duty for schools to promote community cohesion under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The DSCF definition of community cohesion is ...'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 workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

Lancashire County Council define community cohesions as '...people working together and respecting the differences in our society.

### Introduction

This policy aims to show how all members of Baines Endowed VC Primary School will meet their duty to promote community cohesion. This policy was drafted in the Spring term 2010 and adopted by the Full Governing Body at the end of that term. Reviews will take place on a yearly basis or when deemed necessary.

At Baines Endowed VC Primary School, where we are situated in a mixed community area in terms of socio-economic groups, and where the school has a predominantly white British intake. We are fully inclusive and value all the members of our community.

The ethos and curriculum at Baines Endowed VC Primary School already promotes the sense of community cohesion and the school works closely with a number of community groups, individuals and other schools to further promote this. We have links with a culturally diverse school in Farnworth, near Manchester and another with a group of schools in West Ghana.

Our links with Residential homes in the local area included :-

The Briars Residential Home  
The Conifers Residential Home  
The Thornton Lodge Residential Home and  
Alexandra Court Residential Home

As part of our everyday curriculum, we believe that in order to prepare all our children for living and working in a diverse and cohesive society, we should work with the pupils to :-

- Encourage the development of a secure sense of their own identity, both as individuals and as part of the local, national and global communities of which they are a part.

- Encourage positive and open attitudes towards diversity and develop the skills, understanding and the confidence to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping.
- Support the development of the skills, knowledge, understanding and motivation they need to become active citizens within the community who recognise their rights and responsibilities.
- Ensure equality of opportunity, remove barriers to access and eliminate discrimination and harassment.
- Provide opportunities to find out more about and positively interact and build relationships with people from a range of backgrounds within their local community as well as within the wider society.
- Ensure they receive a broad and balanced education and succeed in reaching their individual potential at the highest level possible.
- Provide opportunities for positive interaction and the building of relationships with people from a range of different backgrounds both in our local community and wider society.
- Provide strong Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural support and teaching to enable all aims to be achieved.

The policy for Community Cohesion reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body will ensure that the school complies with its duty to promote Community Cohesion and all staff will ensure that equality of opportunity and positive attitude towards diversity are promoted as part of their overall responsibility.

### Community Cohesion at Baines Endowed VC Primary School

When we talk about Community Cohesion at Baines Endowed, we mean the following groups:-

- The school community – the pupils it serves, their families and the school staff.
- The local community – the school as a part of Thornton and the people who live or work there.
- The wider community – the community of Great Britain of which the pupils are a part.
- The global community – thinking about the pupil's place within the European Union and also within the world.

### Our contribution towards Community Cohesion

Our contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the following strands :-

- Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum – to teach the pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity as well as developing the skills of participation and responsible action.

- Equality 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.
- Engagement and Extended Services – 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.

In addition we will promote community cohesion through the Every Child Matters outcomes of ‘making a positive contribution’, ‘enjoy and achieve’ and ‘achieving economic well-being’.

### Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

At Baines Endowed VC Primary School we all aspire to have high standards of teaching and curriculum provision that supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values and builds pupils’ understanding of the diversity in this world. We encourage them to recognise similarities and appreciate different cultures, faiths, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Opportunities for discussing issues of identity and diversity will be regularly integrated across the curriculum during our PSHEe lessons and through circle time as well as through opportunities within our Creative Curriculum.

We will ensure that all our pupils :-

- Recognise diversity across the school and within the wider community and make sure that this is celebrated and valued as much as possible.
- Understand the idea of shared values and what that means to us as individuals.
- Participate through their own choices in all that the school and the wider community has to offer.
- Engage in lessons across the curriculum that promote common values and help them to value differences and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping.
- Have a greater understanding of community and diversity through enrichment activities such as visits and meetings with members of different communities.
- Have an effective voice and involvement in the 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.

### Equality and Excellence

We will ensure that all pupils and staff :-

- Are treated fairly and equally and given equal opportunities in all that the school has to offer.
- Work towards removing any barriers against access and participation in all that the school has to offer, both during curriculum time as well as during extended school activities.

- Will identify at the earliest opportunity any areas of concern which need to be dealt with as part of our community cohesion approach.
- Work together to eliminate any variations of expectation for groups/individuals within the school.

### Engagement and Extended Services

Baines Endowed VC Primary School pupils already take an active part within the local community and we aim to develop this further for the benefit of the pupils themselves and to encourage the wider community's understanding of the school.

Therefore in the future we will:-

- Provide opportunities for our pupils and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds, enabling the building of positive relationships between all community members eg links with Great Arley and Red Marsh Schools in Thornton as well as the continuing development of links with other schools across Lancashire.
- Continue to develop links with contrasting schools and communities both locally as well as nationally and internationally.
- Continue to provide signposting to the wide variety of extended services on offer in the school and elsewhere locally eg the use of the notice boards, outside boards and newsletters to advertise courses and activities available.
- Develop stronger links with the local community with which we already have links eg the churches, the High Schools, the Library and Thornton Action Group.
- Provide greater opportunities for pupils to work together with their families on activities in school and the local community and to receive services which build stronger positive interaction eg courses for pupils and parents held in school, poetry evening for parents and courses organised for parents to extend their own learning held either in school or one of the other local schools.

### Monitoring and Assessment

It is the responsibility of the co-ordinator to monitor and assess the implementation of this policy and the outcomes from its development.

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and ensure that all aspects, including Community Cohesion, are being carried out.

G. Finney

December 2014

Reviewed October 2015

Reviewed October 2016

Reviewed September 2017