



COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY

To love, to serve and learn.

We are a school family journeying together in God's love.

We serve each other to achieve our best.

We learn in fun and creative ways,
respecting everyone's gifts.

Introduction & Ethos

At St. Edward's we believe that every person is made in the image of God. Our Catholic ethos emphasises the dignity of the human person and the call to love our neighbour. Drawing on Catholic social teaching, we affirm that a cohesive society is one in which we live in solidarity, value difference, and share responsibility for the common good (see e.g. Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales / Catholic Education Service guidance).

This policy sets out how our school contributes to community cohesion: within our school, within our local community, across the UK, and in the global context.

Purpose of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to outline the key role the school plays in promoting community cohesion and to define the approaches we take, in line with our Catholic mission, to foster a sense of belonging, appreciation of diversity, and positive relationships.

"In the school we believe in a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities where the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued. Strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed".

What we mean by "community"

For the purposes of this policy our view of community has multiple dimensions:

- The **school community** - pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone using school facilities.
- The **local community** - the neighbourhood, parish, and local civic context within which the school is situated.
- The **UK community** - recognising that the school is part of the national context of different faiths, cultures and life-experiences.
- The **global community** - appreciating that we are interconnected with others around the world and have responsibilities beyond our immediate context.

Our Aims & Objectives

We aim to:

- Develop a common vision and sense of belonging for all members of our school-family.
- Value and celebrate diversity, recognising that difference enriches our community.
- Provide similar life opportunities for all, so that pupils and families feel included and not marginalised.
- Foster strong and positive relationships between people of different backgrounds, faiths and cultures.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to live well in a diverse society – locally, nationally and globally.

How we Promote Community Cohesion

Teaching, learning and the curriculum

- We embed opportunities throughout the curriculum for pupils to learn about, respect and value different faiths, cultures and communities. For example, exploring diversity in Religious Education, PSHE/RSE, and across foundation subjects.
- We encourage pupils to develop social responsibility, active participation and respectful citizenship.
- We design learning experiences that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to local, national and global issues of justice, inclusion and human dignity.

Equity, inclusion and access

- We strive to ensure equal access to all school activities, resources and support so that all pupils and families feel included.
- We identify and work to remove barriers which might prevent children, parents or staff from full participation in school life.
- We monitor outcomes for different groups (by e.g., background, faith, ethnicity, disadvantage) and act when disparities are identified.

Engagement, partnerships and community links

- We work in partnership with parents/carers, the parish, local community organisations and other schools to strengthen links across diverse groups.
- We provide opportunities for pupils to engage with the wider community (e.g., local charity work, cross-cultural events, inter-faith activities) so that they experience positive interaction with those from different backgrounds.
- We communicate with and involve members of the school community to build awareness, understanding and collaboration.

Shared values and school ethos

- Our Catholic ethos underpins our commitment to the common good: we seek to model respect, compassion and solidarity in our day-to-day life.
- Through collective worship, school assemblies, classroom discussion and pastoral work we explicitly address themes of diversity, justice, human dignity and community cohesion.

Roles & Responsibilities

- **Governing Body:** Ensures that the policy is implemented, reviewed and that the school monitors progress towards its community-cohesion aims.
- **Headteacher & Senior Leadership:** Leads the development of the policy in practice, ensures staff are aware, coordinates implementation and monitors effectiveness.
- **All Staff:** Foster inclusive relationships, celebrate diversity, challenge prejudice and support pupils to develop respectful attitudes.

- **Pupils:** Encouraged to engage positively with classmates and community members of differing backgrounds, contribute to a welcoming school culture, and act as respectful citizens.
- **Parents/Carers & Community Partners:** Support the school's ethos, engage in school life, collaborate in activities which promote cohesion.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- pupil and parent surveys or feedback about inclusion, sense of belonging, relationships;
- analysis of school data (e.g., attendance, behaviour incidents, engagement in activities) for different groups;
- review of partnerships, community engagement events and their impact;
- staff reflection and professional development related to community cohesion.
- Data and findings will inform the school's action plan going forward.
- This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years (or sooner if required) and the next review date is set as December 2027.

Links with Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Equality Policy
- Diversity Policy
- PSHE / RSE Policy
- RE Curriculum Policy
- Behaviour Policy / Anti-Bullying Policy
- Admissions Policy

Conclusion

At St. Edward's Catholic Primary School we are committed to fostering a community where all individuals feel welcome, valued and able to flourish. Through our Catholic Christian ethos, and by working together with our families and local community, we seek to build a cohesive school community and prepare our pupils to live confidently, respectfully and compassionately in a diverse society.