

# **West Exmoor Federation**



## **Community Cohesion Policy**

**November 2009**

## **Overview**

The West Exmoor Federation 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 member of each school within the federation and as citizens and residents of the United Kingdom.

## **Introduction**

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 workplace, in schools and the wider community.

For schools, the school community is the children and young people it serves, their parents/carers and families, the staff, Governing Body and the community users of the school's facilities and services. It is also the community in which it is located.

The schools within the federation create their own communities and networks between themselves and with other local schools. The federation operates all of the above by providing extended services for the local community. It will extend these links to the wider community including the international community.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The federation will continue to build upon its good practice and look at the impact of our activities. Our federation builds community cohesion by promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for different groups of children within our schools. There is a strong respect for diversity and inequalities by sharing values and encouraging pupils to actively engage with others to understand what they have in common to equip them to live and thrive alongside people from different backgrounds.

We promote community cohesion through:

- teaching and learning;
- equity and excellence;
- engagement and ethos.

Our aims are:

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

## **Teaching and Learning**

Our teaching and curriculum provision supports high standards of attainment, promotes common values, and build pupils' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them. Opportunities across the curriculum are promoted to share values and to help pupils to value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. A programme of curriculum based activities whereby pupils' understanding of community and diversity is enriched through fieldwork and visits from members of different communities. Support is given for pupils for whom English is an additional language to enable them to achieve at the highest possible level in English. Assemblies are arranged that involve members of the local and wider community to promote the engagement of learners and shared understanding as well as the federation's ethos and values. Learners are encouraged to value diversity and to develop a better understanding of society by challenging assumptions.

## **Strategy**

- The federation will contribute to promoting community cohesion by developing its teaching, learning and curriculum to help all children to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst also promoting shared values.
- Our federation will promote awareness of human rights; all will apply and defend them.
- We will develop the skills of participation and responsible action necessary for living together as citizens of England within the United Kingdom.
- We will promote equity and excellence to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed and do well.
- We will provide access and participation in learning and wider activities and work to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
- We will provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations including where appropriate, links with different schools and communities.
- Where we can we will offer access to provision of extended service 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.

## **Equity and Excellence**

High standards and expectations are set for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio economic groups. Effective approaches are in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment and are reported to Governors and the Local Authority termly. Admission arrangements are in accordance with the LA Code of Practice.

## **Engagement and Extended Services**

### *School to school*

Partnership arrangements with other schools outside of the federation to share good practice and offer pupils the opportunity to meet and learn from other pupils are being developed.

### *School to parents/carers and the community*

Links and opportunities with parents/carers occur through curriculum evenings and family liaison work, reaching parents who may need additional support, advice.

## **Provision of Extended Services**

The schools within the federation signpost extended services. Multi agency working between the schools and other local agencies including the community police, social and health care professionals takes place. We invite and welcome community representatives into our schools to work with pupils.

## **Monitoring and review**

### *Role of the Governors*

The Governors will conduct an annual audit of the school's existing practice in relation to community cohesion and determine what further action may be required.

### *Role of the Executive Headteacher*

The Executive Headteacher will monitor community cohesion and will report to the Governors on the progress and impact of the policy. The information from the annual audit will feed into the next Federation Development Plan.

## **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 understand human rights and gain an international perspective of their world. We will develop responsible young citizens who support cohesion. This policy will make a key contribution to the school's positive ethos. The Executive Headteacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the other federation policies. This policy will be reviewed annually

See also:

Education Act 2002 Section 78

Race Relations Amendment Act 2000

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 a duty on Governing Bodies to promote Community Cohesion section 23A of the Education Act 2002