

## **Community Cohesion Policy**

### **Aims and Objectives of the policy**

At the Blue Coat School we recognise the pivotal role we play in developing community cohesion and are committed to supporting this by:

- developing a common vision and sense of belonging;
- developing an appreciation of the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances;
- creating opportunities for all students to achieve their potential;
- building strong and positive relationships with local and wider communities.

We recognise that this is of particular importance for a school to prepare its students for life and work in a multi-cultural society and world.

The term 'community' has a number of dimensions for us including:

- the school community, the young people it serves, their parents, the staff and Governing Body and community users of the School's facilities and services;
- the communities created by the networks we establish with schools, colleges, work based learning providers and other partners;
- the local communities of Merseyside;
- the UK community;
- the Global community.

### **General principles**

The Blue Coat School helps to build community cohesion by:

- promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for all students, irrespective of background in terms of gender, ability, culture, ethnicity, religious belief, or socio-economic circumstances;
- promoting school values and encouraging students to engage with others to understand what they all hold in common.

The School's contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under three headings:

#### **1. Teaching, learning and curriculum**

Helping young people to understand others, to value diversity, respect human rights and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

#### **2. Equity and excellence**

To ensure all students have equal opportunity to achieve their potential.

### **3. Engagement and extended services**

To provide opportunities for students to interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures;

To contribute to the development of our local communities;

To build links with different schools and communities;

To provide extended services.

Promoting community cohesion is already strongly embedded in existing practice as detailed below but The Blue Coat School is committed to developing this aspect of our work further.

### **Teaching, learning and curriculum**

- The Blue Coat School is an effective school with high standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision. It has very high expectations of our students and we set challenging individual achievement targets.
- There are many opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and help students value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. This is particularly evident in our PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) and is clearly evident throughout the taught curriculum.
- An extensive programme of curricular and extra-curricular activities enrich students' understanding of community and diversity through fieldwork, visits including trips abroad, visits to places of worship and opportunities to meet with members of different communities.

### **Equity and Excellence**

- The Blue Coat School promotes high standards of achievement for all. We set challenging individual targets for all our students, monitor their progress regularly and have robust strategies of intervention and support.
- The Blue Coat School aims to ensure there are no barriers to achievement and work to remove disparities in attainment between different groups.
- The Blue Coat School promotes an inclusive, caring, supporting ethos and maintain a highly effective pastoral system.
- The Blue Coat School expects the highest standards of behaviour and have effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment.

## **Engagement and Extended Services - School to School**

- The Blue Coat School has links with other schools, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- As part of our specialist school status community development plan we have links with partner schools (secondary, special and primary) and schools regionally and nationally through networking as part of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.
- The Blue Coat School is the Lead Partner in partnership with Parklands High School, Speke, and links at all levels are now established.
- Students have opportunities to interact with students from abroad through our international links and trips (foreign language trips and exchanges, ski and other sports trips, virtual links to our partner schools abroad, including shared curriculum and international days).
- Teachers have links with other schools in the Maths and Science specialism, our membership of the local learning partnerships and collaboratives; and our international partnerships and support groups.

## **School, Parents and the Community**

- Students have a strong voice opportunities to take responsibility through our system of Year Council, School Council through opportunities provided by the pastoral care system, Prefect system.
- Students participate in voluntary community based activities through charity work, Health and Social Care placements, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and individually negotiated opportunities throughout the School, eg AQA BACC.
- The School engages with parents through a range of activities including consultation evenings, focus groups and targeting questionnaires. Our pastoral system, working with the Educational Welfare Office (EWO) service, Specialist Advisory Inclusion Service (SAIS) and as a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) area, is sensitive to the needs of families requiring additional support.
- We have strong links with work-based learning providers and employers through the Educational Business Partnership (EBP) and Rathbones.
- We engage with local community groups, providing facilities for a range of community activities including training and facilitating meetings for the primary community as part of our specialist status. We have particularly strong links with a range of local primary schools. We have good links with local charities.

## **School to LA and other partners**

We work closely with Liverpool LA to promote community cohesion. We contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and engage with the developing Children's Trust and Children's Plan partnership arrangements.

## **The policy and its direction for the future**

### **Teaching, Learning and Curriculum**

We will continue to

- Strive to ensure that every student achieves their potential by setting challenging targets, monitoring progress and developing more effective intervention and support mechanisms.
- Develop opportunities for our students to travel within the UK and abroad and interact with students from different backgrounds and cultures.

### **Equity and Excellence**

We will continue to

- Track and monitor the performance of particular groups in School.
- Develop our pastoral systems to promote a caring supportive ethos free from prejudice, discrimination and bullying.

### **Engagement and Extended Services**

We will

- Continue to develop our international links.
- Involve more staff in international links.
- Continue to involve Governors more closely in links with our partner schools, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

### **School to Parents and the Community**

We will continue to

- Develop our links with community groups and organisations.
- Develop student voice.
- Strengthen our links with voluntary community based activities.

### **Extended Services**

We will

- Explore how, working with our local partnerships, we can build stronger relationships with the local community, creating a local community cohesion policy which will enable schools in Liverpool to play an even greater and more cohesive role in the community.

**The review and evaluation of this policy will take place bi-annually.**