

KEW WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY INTO PRACTICE

COMMUNITY COHESION

Kew Woods Primary School Context

Kew Woods Primary School is situated in Southport. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is below average. A small amount of pupils are of an ethnic minority as almost all pupils are White British. A small number of the pupils speak English as an additional language.

What is community cohesion?

At Kew Woods Primary School we consider ‘community cohesion’ to mean working towards a society in which:

- there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities;
- the diversity of people’s backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued;
- similar life opportunities are available to all; and
- strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

Our Community

Kew Woods Primary School is part of a community which has four basic dimensions:

- ***The school community*** – the children and young people it serves, their parents, carers and families, the school’s staff and governing body, and community users of the school’s facilities and services.
- ***The community within which the school is located*** – the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in that area. This applies not just to the immediate neighbourhood but

also to the local authority area within which the school is located.

- *The UK community* – all schools are by definition part of this community.
- *The Global community* – formed by EU and international links.

Main Aims

To equip pupils to live and thrive alongside people from many different backgrounds by:-

- Providing opportunities for interaction between children and young people from different backgrounds.
- Enabling and encouraging children to identify and celebrate the differences between a variety of cultures.
- Enabling and encouraging children to identify and celebrate the similarities between people from a variety of cultures.
- Providing a balance of opportunities for all children and members of the school and local community.
- Having high expectations of success, with all pupils expected and encouraged to achieve their potential.

How do we achieve community cohesion?

Our contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the three following headings:

- Teaching, Learning and Curriculum – helping children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst also promoting shared values, to promote awareness of human rights and to apply and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

- Equity and Excellence – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, striving to remove barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
- Engagement and Extended Services – to provide reasonable means for the children, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations including: links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; and 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.

School level

The very nature of our creative curriculum and personalised learning together with our high standards of planning, teaching and assessment mean that we very successfully break down the barriers which can prevent children from achieving their full potential. However, we also employ a range of strategies, projects and initiatives on a daily/regular basis which help all of our children to achieve at the same time as building a cohesive school community.

Examples of these include:-

- Topic based learning
- School council
- PSHE and Citizenship (SEAL)
- Targeted intervention strategies

Local community level

We are incredibly proud of the position that we hold within our community. Our stakeholders are immensely supportive of the work that we do. We place a great deal of importance on the involvement of parents, carers, other schools, members of the local community and outside agencies.

Examples include:

- Extended schools activities
- Children's University
- Southport Learning partnership (25 primary / secondary schools in Southport)
- CORE network (6 outstanding schools across Sefton)
- So Talented! Performing Arts Group
- Developing an awareness of a range of faiths and ethnicities through our topic based learning
- Parents as Educators courses

UK level

At Kew Woods Primary School we are very aware of the needs of different individuals and community groups within the UK. The learning that we carry out on a daily basis, particularly during PSHE sessions is focussed on the acceptance of others. We feel very strongly that our topic based learning gives our children a wide range of opportunities to learn about a range of communities.

Examples of community cohesion at the UK level include:-

- Key Stage 2 class links with The Hawthorns Primary School in Wokingham (Berkshire)
- Themed days / weeks as part of our topic based learning
- Opportunities across the curriculum to value differences, challenge

prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping

- Developing an awareness of a range of faiths and ethnicities through our topic based learning. (RE Topics)

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Global level

We are very proud of our level of commitment to community cohesion on a global level. We raise funds for countries in poorer areas in the Third World.

Community cohesion and equality go hand in hand and thus this policy should be read in conjunction with our Equal Opportunities Policy.