



GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspire ~ Believe ~ Achieve



CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY (incorporating British Values)

Signed ... 

Name: Dave Llewellyn

Chair of Governors

Date: May 2023

Signed 

Name: Caroline Carter

Headteacher

Date: May 2023

Rationale

Community cohesion lies at the heart of what makes a strong and safe community. It must be delivered locally through creating strong networks, based on principles of trust, and respect for local diversity, and nurturing a sense of belonging and confidence in local people.

Citizenship education gives children knowledge, understanding and skills and helps them explore and develop attitudes and values to become informed, active and responsible citizens. It helps them develop political literacy and explore social and moral issues and to make a positive contribution to their local, national and global communities.

Effectively creating community cohesion also tackles the fractures in society which may lead to conflict and ensures that the gains that communities bring are a source of strength to local areas.

Our Vision

Our vision celebrates inclusivity and recognises the diversity within our catchment area and the wider community. We welcome the contributions which different groups and individuals make to our community and encourage those in our community to treat others with care and respect and give back to their community. A lack of appreciation of differences between groups of people can cause misunderstanding and friction. A key commitment of Gillingstool Primary School is to build and promote community cohesion within the school and wider community and for pupils to become contributing citizens. Community cohesion incorporates and goes beyond the concept of race equality and social inclusion.

A cohesive community is one where:

- there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities
- the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are respected, appreciated and positively valued
- those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities
- strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods.

Gillingstool Primary School provides education for all, acknowledging that the society within which we live is enriched by diversity. We strive to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school reflects the diversity of all members of the school community and the wider community, where everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect and fairness.

Pupils are provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity. We will work towards eliminating all discrimination, on the grounds of race, gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexuality (including sexual orientation), age, religion and belief.

We believe that all pupils, employees, stakeholders and members of our local and global community should be treated with dignity and respect at all times and we will not tolerate bullying, harassment or victimisation of any groups or individuals.

Our Values

- Inclusivity is a strength; understanding and respecting the many different groups, cultures, and faiths in our society makes us stronger.
- We all work for greater respect and equality of opportunity between different groups, cultures, faiths and ages in our society.
- The different groups, cultures, faiths and ages in our society will benefit from meeting each other, listening to one another, and getting to understand each other more.
- We all work to overcome disadvantage as it is a major barrier between communities, especially where it is experienced more by one group than another.
- Racism and prejudice undermine community cohesion and must be confronted.
- Partnerships with parents, governors and the wider community are essential to promote equality, diversity and community cohesion.

The health, well-being and cohesion of our local community are important to us. By valuing and championing diversity, we lead the way in good practice and set an example for others to join us. That is why we have developed this policy to ensure that we create an environment where everyone is respected and treated equally.

All teachers will be trained in promoting community cohesion through a diverse curriculum. We will assess the impact of our community cohesion programme to determine adverse or differential impact on groups or individuals.

Our practice

There are four areas where our practice can contribute most to Community Cohesion and Citizenship.

1. Teaching and Learning.

A curriculum promoting understanding and respect creates community cohesion through teaching and learning. Many subjects (PSHE, RE, History and Geography) have direct relevance to promoting community cohesion and our topic studies (Climate, Slave Trade/Fair Trade) also contribute to community cohesion and citizenship.

We believe our students should become more aware of the world as it is, all its forms of government and their institution. This reflects the nature of British values in democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and. We believe our children should not learn only 'tolerance' - we strive for mutual respect, understanding and acceptance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We adopt a balanced view in

the best interests of educating our pupils so they are able to take make their own judgments now or in the future.

2. School Vision, Values

Gillingstool Vision and Values

“At Gillingstool, integrity and inclusivity are at the heart of everything we do for our children. In partnership with our parents and the wider community, we provide a unique environment within a vibrant and caring school - inspiring our children’s passion for ambitious, life-long learning. This is delivered through consistently high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour. By working together with respect, enthusiasm and care towards all others, we at Gillingstool promote happiness, kindness and honesty.”

Our vision is centred on the principle of inclusivity and equity for all. We are striving to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential, irrespective of ethnic, socio-economic or other differences. We are committed to narrowing, and ultimately closing, the gap between the progress and attainment of children from different backgrounds and their peers.

3. School Policies

- Equalities Plan
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Racial Harassment Policy
- Gender Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Behaviour Policy

4. Wider Curriculum Opportunities / Special Events

Through our curriculum and wider offer, we encourage our pupils to participate in our community and local events. This includes making links with local sports teams and youth groups and planning visits within the locality to parks, playgrounds and the community library.

Within school other events and organisations also contribute to the wider offer. These include:

- School Council
- Cultural Appreciation Week
- Getting Along Week
- Fund raising work for global, national and local charities (Food Bank, Comic Relief, Children in Need, Sport Relief)