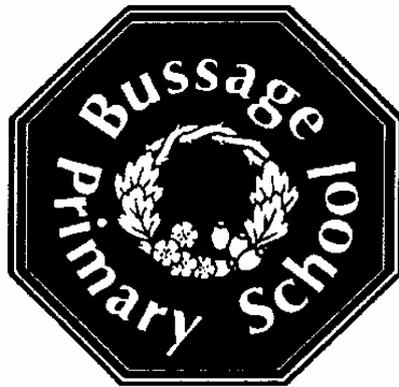


Policy on Community Cohesion



Date: Autumn 2016

Signed: _____

Next Review: Autumn 2018

Bussage Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and this policy is written within the context of the Christian faith, practice and values which underpin our ethos, and which are in keeping with our Trust Deed.

Promoting Community Cohesion

1. Introduction

Section 78 of the 2002 Education Act gave all schools the duty to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Under the 2000 Race Relations Act schools have a duty to eliminate racial discrimination and to promote good race relations and equality of opportunity. These provisions were extended in September 2007 to a specific duty to promote "Community Cohesion" (Education and Inspections Act 2006 - section 21 (s)).

2. Defining Community Cohesion

We embrace the values of tolerance and appreciation of the diverse backgrounds within our community. We define our community as:

- our school
- our local area (including the Church communities in the ecclesiastical Parish of Bussage with Eastcombe)
- our nation
- our world.

We wish to create a positive sense of belonging at all levels and to encourage positive citizenship from all members of the school community.

We recognise the importance for our children to gain a full understanding of life in a multi faith society. Due to our locality, we actively seek to foster relationships with other settings through shared project work.

3. Guiding Principles

In fulfilling our legal obligations above we are guided by six principles:

- a) All learners are of equal value.
- b) We recognise, respect and celebrate diversity.
- c) We foster positive attitudes and relationships towards each other and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.
- d) We promote equal opportunities in all elements of our staff policies to prevent inequalities from occurring.
- e) We value consultation.
- f) We intend that our work should benefit society as a whole, whether defined as local, national or international.

4. Promoting Community Cohesion

- a) We aim to link, as widely as possible, with different schools and explore similarities and differences within these schools, looking at religious and cultural diversity. We recognise that as a rural school in Gloucestershire, it is important that our children have the opportunity to engage and work with many different children from very different settings to our own.

We are linked with one international school. Our linking school is:

International – Shamenei Primary School in Kenya. A school of about 350 children aged from 5 – 13. Our schools are involved in project work based on climate change. This is a whole school link.

(b) Equality and Excellence

- (i) The school commits to providing equal opportunities for all members of the school community.
- (ii) The school commits itself to enabling all learners to achieve their best.
- (iii) We monitor learner performance by identifying vulnerable groups and employ effective interventions to secure optimum outcomes for all.
- (iv) We will provide an effective policy and practice to address any form of prejudice or bullying.
- (v) We provide effective support services to help all pupils achieve their best. In this school examples include:
 - Engagement with all parents/carers
 - Multi-agency work as appropriate to individuals
 - Activities to embrace pupils with Special educational Needs & Disabilities.
- (vi) We will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in all of our work.
- (vii) We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

(c) Engaging with our wider community and extending provision

- (i) The school will make full use, as appropriate, of Gloucester County Council services and the services provided by the Diocesan Education Board as well as those which exist in our local Churches, to meet the needs of individuals in order to serve the needs of the wider community.
- (ii) The school engages in charity work for “good causes” in our local, national and international communities through the work of the children’s charity committee.
- (iii) The school will make full use, as appropriate, of Gloucester County Council services and the services provided by the Diocesan Education Board as well as those which exist in our local Churches (including those serving as Foundation Governors), to meet the needs of individuals in order to serve the needs of the wider community.
- (iv) The school Eco-Committee assess the environmental performance of the school and in conjunction with the rest of the school and the wider community, will decide the environmental themes they want to address and how to do it.

5. Key Responsibilities

- (i) The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with this policy and that strategies are implemented to achieve our aims.
- (ii) The Head Teacher is responsible for all aspects of the policy and for taking appropriate action in any cases where the policy has not been followed.
- (iii) All staff will implement and promote all aspects of the policy in line with their professional duties.