

**HARRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COMMUNITY COHESION  
POLICY**

**AUTUMN TERM 2009**

**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF REVIEW:** **AUTUMN TERM 2010**

# Harris Middle School

## Community Cohesion Policy

### Introduction

Community Cohesion is best summarised under three headings:

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. 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.

To promote learning skills through PSHE lessons and following the Learn to Learn and SEAL programmes of study for KS3 and KS2 respectively.

#### 3. Engagement and extended services

To provide reasonable means for children, young people, 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.

### Aims

We believe our school has a key part to play in promoting community cohesion throughout our approach to:

- Teaching and learning: teaching pupils to understand others, promoting discussion and debate about common values and diversity

- Equity and excellence; remove barriers to access and participation, offering equal opportunities to all pupils to success at the highest level possible
- Engagement and ethos: providing opportunities for children, young people and their families to interact with others from different backgrounds.

### **How our school promotes community cohesion**

Our approach includes a range of activities:

- Charity days/events (i.e. Red Nose Day, harvest festival)
- Visitors from various agencies and community groups to work with the children
- Encouraging the pupils' voice through School Council
- Promoting engagement with parents and carers through; parents' evenings, curriculum evenings, community events, the signposting of parent and child courses, family learning, website etc.
- Strong links are fostered and encouraged, enabling multi-agency working between the school and other local agencies, such as the police, social care and health professionals
- Providing access to (or signposting) extended services and community use of facilities for activities that take place out of school hours
- LA and school admission arrangements promote community cohesion and social equality
- Promotion of extended services within our school
- Participation in the Ripple Effect which is water based activities that aim to promote team work and self esteem for our pupils
- The school has a dedicated person who is engaged in promoting a variety of extended activities for pupils. This enables us to make full use of the funding the school receives from the Extended Schools Pathfinder Funding Project.

With other schools these include:

- Sporting fixtures (friendlies and competitive)
- Collaborative working on cluster projects and partnership agreements enable us to share good practice and offer pupils the opportunity to meet and learn from other young people from different backgrounds and with other local schools.

This policy is continuously monitored and will be reviewed at least annually.