

# **Brine Leas school**

## **An Academy**

### **COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY**

This policy applies to all governors, staff, students, parents/carers, volunteers and visitors to our school.

#### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

BLS has over 1350 students on Roll, of whom more than 87% (91.7% inc white English) are defined as White British.

Our School is committed to our whole school policies relating to community cohesion, equal opportunities and race relations. We are also committed to regular reviews and updates of whole school and curriculum practices relating to community cohesion.

Caring for and respecting others is at the heart of our relationships. It is our desire to enhance the personal development of all students and to promote honesty, loyalty, tolerance, self management and a concern for each other and the environment, resulting in a school that is friendly, calm, purposeful and orderly.

#### **COMMUNITY COHESION**

For BLS community cohesion can be defined as, "people working together and respecting the differences in our society".

#### **AIMS OF THE POLICY**

- Our Community Cohesion Policy builds upon our Mission Statement, core values and the School ethos.
- We recognise our duty to promote equality of opportunity and inclusion.
- We encourage our students to actively engage with others to understand what they all hold in common, strengthen and celebrate the diversity of cultures and backgrounds within the whole School community.

We aim to achieve this by:

- treating all those within the whole School community as individuals with their own particular abilities, background and experiences.
- creating a school ethos, which promotes community cohesion, race equality, develops understanding and challenges stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudices.
- encouraging everyone within the School community to gain a positive self image and high self-esteem.
- promoting mutual self-respect, valuing each other's similarities and differences and facing equality issues openly.

- supporting the development of the skills, knowledge, understanding and motivation students need to become active citizens who recognise the rights and responsibilities of everyone.
- providing opportunities for positive interaction and the building of relationships with people from a range of different backgrounds both in our local community and the wider society.
- ensuring students receive a broad and balanced education which allows them to reach their full potential.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Governors will ensure that:

- the School complies with its duty to promote community cohesion.

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- this policy is readily available;
- governors, staff, students and their parents/carers have access to the policy and are updated on any changes;
- all staff understand their responsibilities and receive appropriate support and training where necessary;
- this policy and its procedures are followed.

All staff will ensure that:

- they understand their responsibilities;
- they promote equality of opportunity and positive attitudes to diversity in accordance with this policy and other relevant policies.

Students will be encouraged to recognise and respect the rights and responsibilities of the School and wider community

Parents/Carers will be asked to support the School in the aims of this policy and positively encourage their children to respect the diversity in our community.

## **TEACHING, LEARNING AND CURRICULUM**

- All subject areas will be reviewed regularly to ensure the curriculum promotes awareness of diversity, shared values, exploration of identity and human rights where appropriate.
- Subject Leaders will monitor resources and the curriculum in their subject area to ensure they meet the aims of this policy.
- Teaching methods will, where appropriate, encourage discussion, questioning and reflection. and this will be monitored through planning documentation and observations.
- The Senior Leadership Team will monitor teaching and learning.
- The School will fulfil its commitment to community cohesion by creating a learning environment where all students can contribute fully and feel valued.
- Staff will receive relevant training and support to ensure they feel confident in promoting discussions around sensitive issues.
- Community cohesion will be promoted through a well planned series of assemblies and PHSE lessons.

## **EQUALITY AND EXCELLENCE**

- In line with our Race Equality Policy, data will be rigorously analysed to identify students at risk of underachieving and appropriate intervention strategies will be utilised.
- We will work collaboratively with our students to address barriers to achievement.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND EXTENDED SERVICES**

- We will continue to develop links with other schools Through local partnerships such as the Nantwich Education Partnership and the Chimney House Group Alliance which are curriculum/pastoral based and which encourage communication on a range of topics.
- We will work collaboratively to establish stronger links with our local community, in particular through the development of local plans and contributing positively to them
- We will facilitate smooth transition by effective communication e.g. signpost networks/groups in the community

## **MONITORING**

The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body will monitor the policy and evaluate its impact on our School and its community

<b>Written By:</b> Andrew Cliffe	<b>Date:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<b>Approved by Governors:</b> Approved at March 2017 FGB	<b>Review Date:</b> February 2019