



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FOUNDATION SCHOOL)

COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY

Background and Context

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section (21(5)) into the 2002 Education Act. This introduced a duty on the Governing Bodies of all maintained schools to 'promote' community cohesion.

Schools build community cohesion through promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for different groups of students within a school; and, alongside this, focus on inequalities and a strong respect for diversity. Schools also have a role in promoting shared values and encouraging students to actively engage with others.

'All schools are responsible for equipping students to live and thrive alongside people from many different backgrounds. For schools where the student population is less diverse or predominantly of one socioeconomic, ethnic, religious or non-religious background, more will need to be done to provide opportunities for interaction between children and young people from different backgrounds.' (DCSF 2007).

Our Policy

This Policy aims to show that Callington Community College will meet our duty to promote community cohesion.

It was prepared by Michelle Roberts – Assistant Headteacher and ratified by Governors on 19th October 2010.

It will be reviewed in October 2011.

Review of the policy will generate points for action which will be incorporated into the SIP/Action plan.

Our College Context

Callington Community College is situated in South East Cornwall. It has a predominantly rural catchment area, and has eleven designated feeder primary schools. However, the College attracts students from many primaries outside of the immediate catchment area. The College's population is predominantly White British this makes up 94% of the student ethnicity with 6% currently made up of a range of other ethnic backgrounds.

Our Working Definition

Community Cohesion – 'working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community (DCSF 2007).

College Aims/Vision

At the College we welcome opportunities to broaden the horizons of staff, students, parents/carers, Governors and to embrace different cultures and traditions. Our over arching aim is to ensure that each individual is educated and supported to succeed in the world today, as an individual, as a partner as a member of a team and as a citizen.

The ethos and vision, values of the College are supported by five specialisms, Sport, Music, Gifted and Talented, Leading Edge and Training School, this embodies the practice of community cohesion and we work in a multitude of ways to promote values of equality and diversity.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governors will ensure that:

- The College complies with its duty to promote community cohesion.

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- This policy is readily available and Governors, staff, students and their parents/carers know about it and are updated on its progress.
- All staff understand their responsibilities.
- They promote equality of opportunity and positive attitudes to diversity in accordance with this policy and other relevant policies.

A named member of staff and/or Governor will ensure that:

- Practice in college supports the aims and procedures outlined in this policy.
- They undertake appropriate training in order to support colleagues in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Staff, Governors, parents/carers and students are kept up-to-date with relevant information.
- Monitoring and assessment of the impact of this policy takes place.

Policy into Practice

Our approach to community cohesion reflects:

- The nature and context of the college.
- The student population.
- The geographical location of the college.

As a result the College's contribution to community cohesion is grouped under the following:

- Teaching, Learning and Curriculum;
- Equity and Excellence;
- Engagement and Extended Services.

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Promoting community cohesion through teaching, learning and the curriculum is at the heart of the duty. The College is committed to the highest possible standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision. This commitment is supported through:

- high standards of educational attainment;
- the promotion of shared values within our college community;
- building students' understanding of the diversity that surrounds them – recognising similarities and appreciating different cultures, religions or beliefs, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds.

We provide ample opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and encourage our students to value differences and challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. As well as addressing issues through citizenship we provide opportunities for discussion through Religious Education throughout all stages of student life.

As part of our curriculum we offer visits both in the UK and worldwide. We have International School status and have developed comprehensive and extensive links internationally. We work with local universities, colleges and schools to provide enhanced opportunities for learning. We are involved in the Connecting Classrooms programme. Through the Sports specialism we are involved in the 'International Inspirations' programme with other sports colleges, linking with GSS Jibi School in Nigeria.

Student Voice is a strength of the college and there are a variety of Student Councils and forums and an international student team.

The College also delivers the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Volunteering is also a strength of the college and students have the opportunity to get involved in volunteering in the local community through the CATS programme and through Citizenship programmes.

We also deliver a range of innovative inclusion programmes for students with low self-esteem. This includes Drama therapy, anger management and a range of health related projects.

The student population actively support community fund raising events, charity days, senior citizens events and are regularly involved in the community which the College serves. Students organise mufti days through an elected Student Council. The College also runs a Day of Difference, the cultural advocates project and the 'Young Americans' programme.

Equity and Excellence

The College strives to increase life chances of all students and ensures that all students are treated with respect and are supported to achieve their full potential. There are no barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities.

We have in place highly effective approaches to deal with incidents of prejudice, discrimination, bullying and harassment.

Engagement and Extended Services

The College actively provides opportunities for children, young people, their friends and family to interact with people from different backgrounds and continually builds positive links with our feeder schools and communities. We have a successful School Sport Partnership and we run the Sports Centre, CATS programme and have extensive links with a variety of agencies including the Children's Centre, Town Council, Police, Youth Service and Cornwall Council.

An emotional health centre is an area currently under development which will be available for students, staff and the local community.

We also provide access to extended services and opportunities for students, families and the wider community, building positive interaction and achievement for all.

The College engages with parents through SPDR Day, parent forums and parent information evenings:

- Actively consults with its students, parents, staff and the wider community.
- Works with voluntary and statutory organisations.
- Embeds the services and activities into the college strategic plan and our SEF.
- Works with local community groups and organisation.

Strives to provide wide ranging, highly effective multi-agency working:

- Contributes to the Local Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) through Engagement with the Extended Services network and a wide range of other external agencies.

The College has a willingness to engage with a range of organisations to promote community cohesion and is committed to engaging with additional community partners in the future.

Monitoring and Review

There will be internal evaluation of this policy and the Equality scheme.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality scheme. Together, they are intrinsic to:

- The School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Anti-bullying policy
- Gender policy
- Race Equality policy
- Disability policy

References/Further Reading:

DCSF (2007) – 'Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion'