



*We believe that every child and adult shines with their own unique light.  
Everyone has special talents which we nurture so that we are all the best that  
we can be- flourishing and excelling in everything that we do as individuals and  
as a community*

## Community Cohesion and British Values Policy

**Approved by:** Governors

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Last reviewed:** June 2020

**Next review due by:**

*Blewbury Church of England Primary School is a school which all stakeholders feel proud and privileged to be part of.*

## **OVERVIEW**

There are three main areas under which Blewbury school makes its main contribution to Community Cohesion:

1. Teaching, learning and the curriculum – using opportunities across the curriculum to value diversity whilst also promoting shared British (Human) Values
2. Equity and excellence – ensuring equity and high standards for **all** and tackling underperformance by any particular group
3. Engagement and extended services – engaging with other schools, parents and the community, as well as local authorities and other partners in developing extended services.

### **Community cohesion is about working towards a society in which:**

- a. There is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities
- b. The diversity of peoples' backgrounds is appreciated and valued
- c. Similar life opportunities are available to all
- d. Strong and positive relationships exist and are developed in the school and wider community
- e. The concept of British (Human) and Christian Values underpin all of our work within Blewbury School.

### **'Community' has a number of dimensions:**

- The school community – the pupils it serves, their families, its staff and governing body, and the community use of the school's facilities and services.
- The community within which the school is located, including the town and local authority area
- The UK community – all the schools are, by definition, part of this community
- The global community – formed by EU and international links

## OUR PRINCIPLES

*We believe that every child and adult shines with their own unique light. Everyone has special talents which we nurture so that we are all the best that we can be- flourishing and excelling in everything that we do as individuals and as a community.*

This vision is based on Matthew 5: 12-14

We aim to provide irresistible learning that will equip children to live in our diverse and mobile world. We want them to be motivated and inspired to become successful, life-long learners who can apply their learning, make progress and achieve highly. Above all, we want **all** children to live happy, safe, healthy and fulfilling lives; to become confident individuals; and responsible citizens, who make a positive contribution to society. We believe that **every** child has the potential to do these things.

As a Christian School Community, we believe that the ethos of our school should be built on a foundation of core Christian Values. The following four core values reflect our school ethos and vision: **Community Appreciation Perseverance Forgiveness**

### **We believe these core values help us to sustain a culture within which:**

- Children feel safe and secure
- Children gain self-esteem – valuing themselves and others.
- Children are knowledgeable about the environmental, moral, social, spiritual and economic issues.
- Children engage with the local community and are aware of Blewbury’s position in a changing world
- Children enjoy learning, and aren’t afraid to take risks and make mistakes.

## THE ROLES

The school, through its governors and staff, is responsible for equipping the pupils to live and thrive alongside people from many different backgrounds.

We need to ensure that we:

Provide opportunities for interaction between pupils from different backgrounds

Consider how aspects of work already supports integration and community harmony

Take stock of what has worked so far, for us and for other schools, and consider the scope for a more explicit focus on the impact of our activities on community cohesion

Consider how the duty to promote community cohesion can also contribute to our duty to promote children’s well-being

## PROMOTING BRITISH (Human) VALUES

The DfE have recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.” The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and were reiterated in 2014. At Blewbury School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

<p><b>Core Christian value</b></p>	<p><b>How we promote this</b></p> <p><b>Our RE curriculum and values education follow the Christian ‘Year’ and we use stories from the bible to show these values in action.</b></p>	<p><b>Links to British values</b></p>
<p><b>Community</b></p>	<p>As a school we aim to promote strong links with the wider community and wider world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a volunteering scheme where members of the local community help to support our learners with various aspects of the curriculum.</li> <li>• We invite members of the community to join us at various times during the year (harvest tea, Christmas dinner) and the children are encouraged to be involved in cooking for them, entertaining them and serving them.</li> <li>• Blewbury Brass band are involved in teaching the year 4 children cornets.</li> <li>• Volunteers from the village supported us in running a prayer space</li> </ul> <p>We have links with European Schools and an Indian School We are the only school in the country to have been awarded the International School Award 6 consecutive times. We have regular church services, one of which we link in to the UNICEF day of change which links our school community to the wider world.</p> <p>Within School we value the different groups and communities we work within, and are extremely supportive of one another through our curriculum teams and Key Stage teams. The children are involved in creating class contracts which encourage them to think about how groups/communities work together.</p> <p>The school has an active school council who work hard to improve the school community. Our curriculum encourages children to explore the ways in which they belong to their class, school. Village and world.</p>	<p><b>Individual Liberty</b> UN CRC Article 15: Children have the right to meet together and join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.</p> <p><b>Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs</b></p> <p><b>Mutual Respect</b></p> <p><b>Democracy</b> UN CRC Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Appreciation</b></p>	<p>We have a creative curriculum which encourages children to appreciate a wide variety of experiences, from natural beauty on trips and visits, to wonderful texts carefully chosen to inspire learning in a thematic way. Our curriculum is designed to encourage children to engage with their learning in a variety of ways. We use drama, role play, narrative, pictures and dilemmas to ensure the children are engaged and curious about the content of the project. Curious humans are compelled to learn!</p> <p>We provide a variety of extra curricula activities and clubs, which vary according to the time of year. These include a wide variety of sport, drama, art, sewing, music, singing, construction.</p> <p>As a school we recognise the importance of being exposed to the arts and our children have various opportunities to play musical instruments and take part in creative activities.</p> <p>Blewbury School appreciates and celebrates children’s unique talents. Our celebration assembly each week recognises and rewards a range of achievements both in and out of school.</p> <p>Our RE curriculum includes discussions about appreciating differences between cultures and religions. We explore what it is like to belong to various religions and how this affects beliefs and behaviour - including visiting places of worship.</p> <p>Our collective worship always involves a moment of stillness and reflection.</p> <p>Children from Foundation through to Year 3 take part in regular yoga activities, which encourage children to be present in the moment and to appreciate experiences as they happen. We also use yoga as an intervention to support children.</p>	<p><b>Individual Liberty</b> UN CRC Article 31: All children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.</p> <p><b>Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Perseverance</b></p>	<p>Blewbury School encourages all children to take part in a variety of residential trips and visits. We believe these encourage children to develop resilience/perseverance, confidence and self-esteem which are crucial for fulfilling your potential as a learner. By taking part in these opportunities, children are encouraged to push themselves beyond their usual limits and this in turn helps children to understand the importance of risk taking in a ‘safe environment’.</p> <p>As a school we are committed to developing learning to learn skills through adopting the 5Rs and a growth mindset approach to learning. The skills of being a reflective, responsible, resilient, resourceful learner who can reason, encourage children to have a ‘can do’ attitude towards their learning. We also encourage the language of can’t do it ‘yet’.</p>	<p><b>Individual Liberty</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Forgiveness</b></p>	<p><b>We have high expectations about pupil behaviour and this is reflected in Blewbury School’s framework for behaviour. Our behaviour policy is clearly linked to our Christian value of forgiveness; we view each new day as a fresh start, and always find opportunities to learn from our mistakes. We use the peaceful problem solving process to resolve any conflicts arising and this is always done by exploring all sides of a situation. We never blame individuals and we recognise that human beings make mistakes.</b></p> <p><b>Children are involved in creating class contracts. Each contract will end with a statement such as:</b></p> <p><i>‘We know that sometimes we will get things wrong. When this happens, we will talk about it so that we can learn from it. Mistakes are learning opportunities.’</i></p> <p><b>Blewbury school has an ethos of supporting <i>all</i> children. We use a range of ways to support such as ELSA support, yoga, outdoor learning, individual behaviour plans etc.</b></p> <p><b>We use stories from the bible to explain the notion of forgiveness to the children.</b></p>	<p><b>Democracy</b>  <b>UN CRC Article 12:</b> Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.</p> <p><b>The rule of law</b>  <b>UN CRC Article 19:</b> Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.</p> <p><b>Mutual Respect</b></p>
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All of the above can enhance the understanding for our pupils of diversity and the society in which we live now, thus developing the necessary skills and attributes in young people in order for them to develop their future role in cultivating an open-minded and welcoming community.