




**Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School**

Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 9QB  
Telephone: (01235) 850411

**Headteacher: Jo Reeder**



# Community Cohesion and British Values Policy

Approved by Headteacher	Signature	Date
Jo Reeder		18/04/23
Approved by Chair of Governors	Signature	Date
Ann Parham		18/04/23
Date of Issue	June 2020	
Date of this review	April 2023	
Next review due	April 2026	

Our school is a place for all to belong. Through **love**, we nurture all to grow in their own unique way. We create an environment for all to flourish; to **forgive**, be **resilient** and **courageous**, making a difference to our community and the world beyond.

## 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 underpins 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

As a caring Church of England School community, we believe that the vision of our school should be built on a foundation of core Christian Values.

### **Our Vision and values**

Our school is a place for all to belong. Through **love**, we nurture all to grow in their own unique way. We create an environment for all to flourish; to **forgive**, be **resilient** and **courageous**, making difference to our community and the world beyond.

### **Our vision is based on Matthew 13, the Parable of the Sower:**

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

We believe this vision and our core values help us to sustain a culture within which:

- We feel safe and secure
- We embrace and celebrate difference and diversity
- We appreciate and are aspirational for ourselves and each other
- We enjoy and persevere in our learning,
- We learn from our mistakes
- We recognise and respond to environmental, moral, social, spiritual and economic issues.
- We engage with the local community

Families of children of all faith and of none are welcome to join our inclusive and caring school community.

We have designed our curriculum with the intention to:

- celebrate diversity
- develop cultural awareness
- bring our values to life
- be child centered
- promote sustainability
- prepare for the future
- develop enquiring minds
- nurture a love of learning
- facilitate challenge and mastery
- grow independent learners.

## **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:

Core value	How we promote this	Links to British values
<b>Love</b>	<p>Our RE curriculum and collective worship follow the Christian ‘Year’ and we use stories from the bible to show these values in action.</p> <p>Everything that takes place at school comes from a place of Love. It is our core value and at the heart of everything we do, say, teach and learn.</p> <p>Safeguarding is at the forefront of daily practise, with all stakeholders understanding their role in its effectiveness.</p> <p>Through worship and our PSHRE programme, pupils are taught what being safe means, how to keep them selves safe (including online) and how they can seek support if needed.</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, such as reading.</li> <li>• We invite members of the community to join us at various times during the year (harvest festival, Christmas concert, Easter service)</li> <li>• the PTA hold an annual summer fete, where children are encouraged to be actively involved.</li> </ul> <p>Within School we value the different groups and communities we work within and are extremely supportive of one another.</p> <p>The children are involved in creating class contracts which encourage them to think about how groups/communities work together.</p> <p>The school has House Captains who are voted for by their house team each academic year, work hard promote the school values, improve nurture across the school and are role models to others.</p> <p>We hold charitable events across the school year, which may include comic relief, Children in Need, Remembrance Day or collecting items for such charities as the Ukraine Fund.</p> <p>Our curriculum encourages children to explore the ways in which they belong to their class, school, village and world.</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>Individual Liberty</b>  <b>UN CRC Article 15:</b>            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>  <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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Courage</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 and the courage to show what they know. We use drama, role play, narrative, pictures and dilemmas to ensure the children are engaged and curious about the content of the curriculum and aren't afraid to ask meaningful questions.</p> <p>As a school we recognise the importance of being exposed to new opportunities; 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, music and singing.</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 (also links to Resilience below).</p> <p>Our RE curriculum includes discussions about understanding and 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><b>Individual Liberty</b>  <b>UN CRC Article 31:</b> 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><b>Democracy</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Resilience</b></p>	<p>All Staff at Blewbury School have high expectations of all of the pupils and themselves, believing that everyone can succeed flourish. We also encourage the language of can't do it 'yet' and showing a growth mindset approach to learning.</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 potential as a learner. By taking part in these opportunities, children are encouraged to push themselves beyond their usual limits.</p> <p>Pupils in Reception and Year 1 experience weekly forest school sessions. As well as being emersed in the outdoor atmosphere, they are taught to assess and take risks in a safe and supportive environment (also links to Courage above).</p> <p>Both of the above helps children to understand the importance taking risks and learning to grow from their mistakes.</p>	<p><b>Individual Liberty</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Forgiveness</b></p>	<p>We have high expectations about pupil behaviour and this is reflected in Blewbury School's behaviour policy. 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 resolve any conflicts arising by exploring all sides of a situation. We never blame individuals, and we recognise that human beings make mistakes, which we can all learn from.</p> <p>Blewbury school has an ethos of supporting <i>all</i> children. We use a range of ways to support such as ELSA support, 1:1 interventions, outdoor learning, and positive support plans.</p> <p>We use stories from the bible to explain the notion of forgiveness to the children.</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>Mutual Respect</b></p>