

# Holy Family Catholic Primary School, New Springs

## Mission Statement

**We are a caring family, we pray, learn and grow together**

## Community Cohesion Policy

### Background

*“The governing body of a maintained school shall, in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of their school:*

- ✓ *Promote the wellbeing of pupils at the school*
- ✓ *In the case of a school in England, promote “community cohesion.”*

Education & Inspections Act 2006, section 38.

In his ‘Declaration on Christian Education’ (*‘Gravissimum educationis’*, 1965, para 5), Pope Paul VI proclaimed:

*‘that a Catholic school will promote, between pupils with different talents and backgrounds, friendly relations and foster a spirit of mutual understanding; and the school should be seen as it were a centre whose work and progress must be shared together by families, teachers, associations of various types that foster cultural, civic, and religious life, as well as by civil society and the entire human community.’*

### Introduction

In line with our mission statement, the curriculum will be such that pupils become aware of the challenges that effect society and how such challenges might impinge on *‘the common good’*. The school will deploy strategies that enable effective collaboration with local Catholic schools, schools of other faith traditions and those with no religious character. This will ensure opportunities exist whereby the school contributes to the life of the local community and to national and international events, initiatives and opportunities.

### Overview

Holy Family will endeavour to help all learners to become members of a welcoming and cohesive community. This will fit them for life in England, in the United Kingdom, whose population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures. We will help all to belong and to feel equally valued as members of our school, our parish, our community and as citizens and residents of England in the United Kingdom.

### Objectives

1. To ensure that there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all as a part of our school and local community.
2. To help learners and all in school appreciate and value the wide range of diversity of people’s different backgrounds and circumstances.
3. To help all learn about our nation’s history, culture, traditions and it’s developing and changing nature.
4. To help all develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen in a local, national and international context.
5. To ensure that all are treated fairly and equally, promoting the ongoing development of the entire potential of every person.
6. To ensure that strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in schools and in its wider community.

## **Strategies**

1. The school will promote community cohesion by developing its teaching, learning and curriculum to help all children to learn and understand others. They will learn to value diversity whilst recognising shared values.
2. This school will promote awareness of the rights and responsibilities of all.
3. We will develop the skills of participation and responsible action necessary for living together as global citizens.
4. We will promote equity and excellence to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed and do well.
5. We will ensure all children have equal access to curriculum and extra curricular activities while working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
6. We will provide reasonable means for children to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations.
7. The school will be active in developing collaboration and links between different communities as a means of breaking down negative stereotypes.
8. Where we can, we will offer access to provision of extended service. This will create 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.

## **Outcomes**

Through our work and partnerships, we will promote cohesion and provide a common point of communication for a wide range of people. We will equip young people to make a positive contribution, to care for and contribute to the community, to understand human rights and gain an international perspective of their world. We will develop responsible young citizens who support cohesion. This policy will make a key contribution to the school's positive ethos. The Headteacher and governing body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the Race Equality and Cultural Diversity Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

**Reviewed Spring 2013**