



Heston

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Community Cohesion Duty

"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

Anthony j. D'Angelo

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This Policy is founded within our School ethos which provides a caring, friendly and safe environment for all members of our community.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Background

“The curriculum for all maintained schools should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.” Education Act 2002 Section 78

“Schools have a duty to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.” Race Relations Amendment Act 2000

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002 introducing a duty on the **governing bodies** of maintained schools to promote community cohesion.

Considerations

- The diversity of the staff and student population at Heston allows all members of the school to mix with those from different backgrounds
- Much is already done at Heston through the school’s ethos and curriculum to promote the Community Diversity: Assemblies, SPACE, Cultural Fusion Show, International Status, working alongside members of the local community, students from other borough schools and schools outside the borough

What is meant by ‘Community’?

- School Community: students, parents/ carers and families, school staff, governing body, community users
- Community within which the school is located: people who live and work in the area, networks formed with other schools through e.g. Extended Services, local authority and city
- UK community
- Global community: formed by EU and international links

What is Community Cohesion?

1. Common Vision
 - The importance of “shared futures” and the contribution of all members of the community to this vision
2. Sense of Belonging
 - A strong sense of an individual’s rights and responsibilities
 - Trust in institutions to act fairly

3. Life Opportunities

- The importance of equality and tackling inequality gaps
- Making social change visible
- Communicating fair treatment at all times
- Creating opportunities for students' achievement and enabling every young person to achieve their potential

Barriers to Community Cohesion

1. Mistrust of different groups, particularly those new to the local community
2. Perceptions that local authorities are giving others special treatment
3. Lack of spaces for meaningful interaction

The School's Role in promoting Community Cohesion

1. Teaching, learning and curriculum:
 - teach young people to value diversity whilst promoting shared values
 - promote awareness of human rights
 - develop skills of participation and responsible action
2. Equity and excellence:
 - equal opportunities for all to succeed
 - remove barriers to access and participation
 - eliminate variation in outcomes for different groups
3. Engagement and extended services:
 - provide opportunities for different groups to interact and build positive relations