



Community Cohesion Policy

Adopted by Governing Body: 05.02.19

Reviewed by Governing Body: 11.05.21

Review Cycle: 1 year

Statutory Policy: No

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article Numbers: 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 28, 29, 31)

Contents:

1. Statement of intent
2. What is community cohesion?
3. Community from the school's perspective
4. Our strategic aims
5. How do we contribute to community cohesion?
6. Protecting pupils from extremism and radicalisation
7. School development plan
8. Accountability
9. Monitoring and review

1. Statement of intent

Pitcheroak School recognises that the welfare of our pupils is paramount, and therefore we are dedicated to fulfilling our duty of protecting all pupils. To achieve this, this policy will be implemented at all times in order to ensure that staff members understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.

Pitcheroak School is committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils. The safeguarding culture of Pitcheroak School is partly exercised through the development of respectful, caring and professional relationships between adults and pupils, as well as by all staff members demonstrating integrity, maturity and good judgement.

2. What is community cohesion?

We define 'community cohesion' as working towards a society in which:

- There is a sense of belonging by all communities.
- The diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and valued.
- Similar life opportunities are available to all.
- Strong and positive relationships exist, and continue to be developed in the workplace, school and wider community.
- Social mobility is encouraged and facilitated.

3. Community from the school's perspective

Pitcheroak School defines 'community' in a number of ways:

- School community – the pupils we serve, their families, and our staff members.
- Our local community – our geographical community, and the people who live and/or work in our area.
- The community of Britain – all schools, by definition, are part of it.
- The global community – other countries and international links.

4. Our strategic aims

Pitcheroak School's contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under several headings, including the following:

- Teaching, learning and curriculum
- Equality and excellence
- Engagement and ethos

Our teaching and the curriculum ensures high standards of attainment, promotes common values, and helps pupils understand and value the diversity that surrounds them.

Lessons taught across our curriculum provide various opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding and empathy, promote awareness of the rights of individuals, and to develop the teamwork, skills of participation and responsible action.

At Pitcheroak School, there is a focus on securing high standards of attainment for all pupils and removing barriers to learning both in the classroom and in the wider world.

Effective procedures exist within our school to tackle prejudice, bullying and harassment.

Our admission process promotes community cohesion and social equality.

Pitcheroak School prides itself in providing opportunities for young people and their families to interact and build positive relationships with people from different backgrounds, including links with different schools and communities locally, nationally, internationally and on a wider basis where possible.

Due to unprecedented circumstances throughout the past year, we have been unable to invite parents into school. However, ordinarily we promote an open-door ethos in which all families are welcome to visit us. Parents' evenings are held annually, along with parent engagement events and other celebrations.

It is important to involve children in decision-making and the organisation of the school, teaching pupils the importance of participation and making a difference to the school, local community and beyond.

5. How do we contribute to community cohesion?

Pitcheroak School are responsible for equipping our pupils to live alongside people from many different backgrounds.

Through our existing partnerships in the local and wider community, we support community cohesion to a great extent, and the promotion of community cohesion permeates our aims as outlined in the School Development Plan.

Pitcheroak School ensures:

- That all staff members are encouraged to develop links within the community.
- That partnership working with other agencies is promoted.
- That all pupils have access to a tailored curriculum.
- That pupil's independence skills are supported and promoted.
- That pupils have opportunities to visit venues within the local community as part of our enrichment cycle.
- That pupil voice is promoted.

6. Protecting pupils from extremism and radicalisation

Every school is required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the social, moral and cultural development of pupils.

At Pitcheroak School, we safeguard against biased or unbalanced teaching and the promotion of biased political views.

Under all circumstances, pupils will be protected from extremism and radicalisation through our safeguarding policy.

7. School development plan

Our priorities under this policy are in-line with the school development plan.

Action plans are outlined in the school development plan, and the Headteacher is responsible for communicating and implementing the action plan.

8. Accountability

The Headteacher is directly responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the community cohesion policy.

9. Monitoring and review

The school development and improvement plan is reviewed on an annual basis.