

Community Cohesion Policy Statement

At Copdock we pride ourselves in developing strong and positive relationships both within and beyond our school. We work hard to promote mutual respect for all, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, disability or socio-economic background, and celebrate the diversity and heritage of our families and friends in meaningful activities and events.

Strong Community values are encouraged within our children through active participation in local events. This allows the children to develop a sense of who they are, where they belong and the impact they can have on the lives of others. As a school we have a small percentage of families from different ethnic or faith groups so we are aware of the need to actively promote opportunities for the children to explore and engage in cultural experiences, reflecting on common values and those beliefs and practices which may be outside their own experiences.

In identifying the challenges which face us when promoting community cohesion in a small rural primary school we have implemented the following practice. All of these events promote awareness of belonging and understanding of how we make up the community we live in.

School

- Shared values are promoted within the school community through daily whole school assemblies and weekly PSHE lessons. A range of issues are addressed and explored encouraging reflection on the SEAL principles in relation to our own experiences and those of others.
- All children are actively encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life - and most do on a regular basis! eg behaviour policy, home-school agreements, e-safety, after school clubs etc
- regular events delivered by PTA promote social inclusion and engagement; both child and adult focused - large majority attend.
- Our active school council interacts with all children in school and beyond school into the local community to share ideas and discuss issues.
- involvement in activity weeks eg Black History, Anti-Bullying Week, eco-schools agenda, multicultural experiences, curriculum enrichment days highlight the life experiences of people from a range of backgrounds and cultures promoting integration.
- Information point in school for parents to use and access online resources ensuring access for all including advice newsletters, G+T, SEN support needs / activities and cultural diversity page. (Spring 09)

Community

- The local community is pro-actively involved in the life of the school and this is a two way process supported by and involving parents, children, staff and

governors. As a school we actively use our local community to enhance the curriculum and encourage pupil awareness of local and community issues. eg visits to and from local businesses.

- Community Police - often attend and support events
- local visits to religious buildings and communities – church, Sikh temple to enhance first hand experience and interaction with practicing religious groups.
- Fundraising events focus on a range of charities addressing cultural needs, social deprivation, poverty, disability or illness.
- children perform nativity and lead carols every year at the local Residential Home promoting awareness and understanding of issues associated with old age.
- Children attend a range of pyramid events and tournaments which provides numerous opportunities to socialise and compete with peers from other schools in Suffolk. We carefully identify opportunities to extend those with particular talents by signposting events locally. Events include language days, sports, philosophy.

UK

- National and international charity support - yearly involvement in Red Nose Day, Children in Need; wateraid, Marie Curie, Send your child to School. etc
- visits to places - Felixstowe, Colchester, residential visits like African Adventure promote real life contexts to explore belonging.

Global

- 'Passport to the World' curriculum developed to encourage awareness of other places, cultures, traditions and experiences.
- ICT is used effectively to locate this information eg Google Earth, world religions
- French school links - communication via email, project work, books, letters
- European languages day celebrated every year - invitation to local community to be involved, languages shared, cultures discussed, visitors encouraged to share their life stories.

All these events are used to promote an understanding of the diversity, need and human rights issues both locally, nationally and internationally. It also provides an opportunity for the children to reflect on their own lives and their role in society to secure social cohesion in future generations.