

Knights Templar School/

Community Cohesion Policy

Approved by Governors
22nd April 2008

Knights' Templar School
Policy for **Community Cohesion**

Background

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

Education Act 2002 – The curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils at the school and within the wider community, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Current Good Practice

Equal Opportunities.

At Knights' Templar we welcome and respect people of all cultures and religions; we recognise the enriching qualities of cultural and language diversity and will not discriminate against anyone because of their colour, culture, language, faith, social class, age, ability, gender or sexual orientation.

We also recognise the value of respecting Watchet's own historical cultural identity within a changing world.

We will actively challenge negative discrimination if it occurs on our campus and we will actively promote the value of community cohesion through discussion, social events, curriculum activities and the annual review of this policy.

We have a common vision as stated in the school's prospectus to value all children and to give every child a chance to achieve his or her potential.

Religious Education and Collective Worship / Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Policy

We promote respect and tolerance in all that we say and do in school and when out of school.

All visitors are welcomed. Speakers from different Christian denominations (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, Quakers) and other world religions speak in assemblies and as part of R.E. lessons.

Example – Wendy Kingdom visited from the Bristol synagogue as part of Year 4 studies on Judaism 2007.

School Partnerships

We have helped to develop a range of working networks.

Examples –

i. We work closely with Danesfield School and West Somerset Community College to aim to achieve a seamless transition by agreeing on common teaching policies and common behaviour management procedures.

ii. Pete Stevenson, as part of his work for the L.E.A. anti-racist drama project, visits schools to promote cultural respect and tolerance. The relationships that result from this work are strengthening the ethos and curriculum practice of our school (and other schools) in drama, singing, acts of collective worship and early morning family activities such as Family Maths.

iii. Recent T.O.N.E. sporting activities and the early morning Huff n Puff / D.A.S.H. sessions are promoting good health and physical activity within our school and local community.

iv. *Angie Fernihough's work as an Advanced Skills Teacher takes her to schools around Somerset. Her advice inevitably means that she will be experiencing good practice in schools which is then fed back to us.*

v. *Activities for Gifted and Talented pupils at Danesfield School and West Somerset Community College.*

vi. *Weekly community indoor football sessions with local schools.*

We actively seek friendships with other schools within the U.K. and beyond.

Example – Pete Stevenson is currently working on links with an urban multi-cultural school in Reading or Oxford, and a link with a school in The Gambia facilitated by Jali Sheriffo Konteh, a professional Gambian kora player, who regularly visits the school.

Our Town – Local Studies

We recognise Watchet as a town rich in history and drama. *Example - Local studies feature strongly in our work such as the special evening of dance and drama, 2007, which focused on local traditional tales such as the story of Yankee Jack.*

Studies of local sculpture such as drawings of the statues of The Ancient Mariner and Yankee Jack on The Esplanade. 2008.

School Expectations / Teaching and Learning / In Pursuit of Excellence / E.A.L / Multi Cultural Education.

We promote high expectations.

Examples – Gloria Lawrence the Afro Caribbean singer and storyteller is a friend of the school and last worked with the children in 2007l.

Romanian dancers visit the school 2006.

Visits from representatives from Watchet's twin town St. Renan in traditional costume speaking Breton's own language 2006.

We are the base for the Somerset Language School of Austrian students and teachers in August each year.

Jali Sheriffo Kontehi a kora player from The Gambia visits every year.

All pupils and carers who speak English as an additional language are supported by special needs staff and visiting specialists.

Promoting Good Practice.

We constantly seek opportunities to promote our good practice within the local press, radio and in the form of displays and exhibitions.

Examples – paintings on display at County Hall, 2008.

The school web site.

Parents' letters on line

Performing out of school at local old peoples' homes or being part of community arts initiatives such as the Winsford and District Youth Drama Club, 2007, 2008.

Behaviour Policy

All racist behavioural incidents are recorded and details passed on to the Equality and Diversity department of County Hall. All such behavioural incidents are managed as part of the school's behaviour policy.

Admissions Policy

Everyone is welcome and no discrimination is shown to any individual or group.

Parents and Carers as Partners

We have an active P.T.F.A. and regular opportunities for parents and carers to discuss issues of behaviour and learning with teachers.

Examples – i. Sue Burt the local Community Parent Support Officer is based at our school and constantly available to support vulnerable parents or those who lack confidence in raising issues with staff.

ii. Step Ahead – life skills work

Structures to ensure the application and development of this policy.

- i. School council / peer mediators
- ii. Weekly staff meetings
- iii. Senior management team meetings
- iv. LSA. meetings
- v. Governors' meetings
- vi. community headteacher meetings
- vii. Transition meetings
- viii. Daily acts of collective worship

The Knights' Templar Campus

We work closely with The Sure Start Centre. We also promote the school as a community resource. We are particularly proud of our swimming pool, which is a widely used community resource.

Crime Reduction

The active application of this policy should assist in the reduction of local crime by increasing a sense of positive community spirit.

Future plans to strengthen and develop the policy

- i. A family art day organised by Pete Stevenson
- ii. A display of our children's art in a local art gallery
- iii. A link with a school in Bristol
- iv. The development of the link between classes / subjects and governors
- v. The development of a link with our twin town, St. Renan supported by our after-school French club
- vi. Oral history events to include chatting to locals who can remember the docks and other features of Watchet's past.
- vii. Staff and Partners v Parents and Governors sporting events.
- viii. A school float in the Watchet Carnival parade

This policy will be reviewed annually.

This Policy is linked to the following School Policiesj

Admissions Policy
Collective Worship Policy
Pupil Behaviour
Pupil Discipline
Race Equality