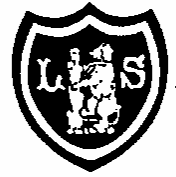


Lapworth CE Primary School



Policy for Community links (Also known as 'Community Cohesion')

1. Introduction and summary

Community Cohesion is a rapidly developing theme in public policy. With clear links to diversity, inclusion and community engagement, Community Cohesion can mean many things to many people.

At Lapworth CE Primary School we define a community as:
'A group of people who hold something in common.'

This can include people:

- Living in the same village, town or city.
- Working together.
- Using the same services.
- Sharing leisure and cultural interests.

This definition underscores the fact that communities are diverse in their make-up, cutting across gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, faith and social status.

In Community Cohesion there is a strong focus on the quality of relationships between different groups in a local community. The ability of a community to integrate diversity into its sense of identity is critical. Any type of difference can be a source of pride or tension.

From this we can summarise a cohesive community is one that:

- Brings people together from different backgrounds.
- Challenges stereotypes
- Treats everyone with dignity and respect.

For this policy the definition of Community Cohesion recommended by the Commission for Integration and Cohesion will be adopted:

An cohesive community is one where:

- There is a clearly defined and widely shared sense of the contribution of different individuals and different communities to a future vision for a neighbourhood, city, region or county.

- There is a strong sense of an individual's rights and responsibilities when living in a particular place – people know what everyone expects of them, and what they can expect in turn.
- Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities, access to services and treatment.
- There is a strong sense of trust in institutions locally to act fairly in arbitrating between different interests and for their role and justifications to be subject to public scrutiny.
- There is a strong recognition of both those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place, with a focus on what they have in common.
- There are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and other institutions within neighbourhoods.

Source: *Our Shared Future* p.10

Local Authorities also have an important leadership role to play in building communities where everyone:

- Shares a sense of local pride
- Has aspirations about the future of their community
- Values the diversity of their community
- Feels listened to and involved in public life.

Community Cohesion needs to be owned by all organisations and community groups if it is to be locally effective. This ensures that there is general support for the positive contribution that people are making locally, that myths and misinformation are being tackled, and that disadvantaged sections of the community are involved in decision making.

This requires a single framework to assess the county and for community groups to concentrate on how they apply Community Cohesion. This will allow local groups to get together and decide what action is needed and who is best placed to lead on local activity.

This policy will be reviewed at any time on a request from the governors, or at least once every three years.

Signed:

Date: