



**RYECROFT C. E. ( C ) MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**POLICY STATEMENT**

**COMMUNITY COHESION**

In formulating this policy the school has considered guidance from the following sources:

- *The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) – Promoting Community Cohesion (July 2007)*
- *Commission on Integration and Cohesion, Our shared future (June 2007)*
- *Communities and Local Government, Community Cohesion Education Standards for Schools (2004)*

### **Definition of Community Cohesion**

Ryecroft C.E (C) Middle School is committed to working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging for all and where the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued. We will strive to ensure that similar life opportunities are available to everyone, and that strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed at school and in the wider community.

The policy commits the school to have a key role in initiating strategies so that young people leave Ryecroft better equipped for life in an increasingly diverse society. These strategies are likely to be best served where they are part of an integrated curriculum and not seen as some sort of bolt-on special programme.

Promoting community cohesion requires Ryecroft to adopt a broader and well-informed view of their local communities and their pupils. Strategic collaboration and information sharing between our school, local schools and local communities can improve the depth of engagement and understanding to identify needs. Collaboration between schools can offer mutual support for aspects such as staff training, curriculum development and exchanges between staff and pupils to better promote community cohesion.

### **Community from the school's perspective**

For Ryecroft, the term 'community' has a number of dimensions including:

- ❖ ***the school community*** – this focuses on the children and young people that the school serves, their parents, carers and families, the school's staff and governing body, and community users of the school's facilities and services.
- ❖ ***the community within which the school is located*** – the school in its geographical community and the people who live or work in that area. This applies not just to the immediate neighbourhood but also to the city or local authority area within which the school is located.
- ❖ ***the UK community*** - all schools are by definition part of this community.
- ❖ ***the global community*** – formed by established international / global links.

In addition, schools themselves create communities – for example, the networks formed by similar or different types of schools, by schools that are part of the specialist schools network, or by schools that work collaboratively in clusters or in other models of partnership.

### **Contributing to Community Cohesion**

Ryecroft’s contribution to community cohesion can be grouped under the three following headings:

- ❖ ***Teaching, learning and curriculum*** – helping children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst also promoting shared values, to promote awareness of human rights and to apply and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action.
- ❖ ***Equity and excellence*** – to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible, striving to remove barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and working to eliminate variations in outcomes for different groups.
- ❖ ***Engagement and extended services*** – to provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations: including links with different schools and communities and the provision of extended service with opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

### **Additional websites of interest**

The Specialist Schools network, led by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, with advice and information available at:

<http://www.ssatuk.co.uk/>

The British Council offers opportunities in international programmes and activities to its registered schools

<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/>

Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00598-2007.pdf>

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Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

Chair ..... Date .....

Approved by Governors: Spring 2014  
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