

# Abbot's Hall Primary School



## Community Cohesion Policy

November 2025

**Be the best that you can be.**

## **Introduction: About Stowmarket**

Abbot's Hall Community Primary School is located in Stowmarket, one of the fastest growing market towns in the country. Stowmarket is the largest town in the Mid Suffolk district and has an approximate population of around 15,000. The population is mainly White British.

## **Aims of the policy and developing community cohesion:**

- To ensure our pupils to have a sense of belonging in a community where everyone is working towards the same values and principles in which diversity is celebrated.
- To provide a range of opportunities through which all members build positive relationships and extend these to the wider local, national and global community.
- To promote a climate where all members of the community are valued and respected, and show tolerance and understanding of each other.
- To eliminate all forms of discrimination, on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexuality, age, religion and belief.
- To ensure pupils are provided with the opportunity to experience, understand, celebrate and value diversity to prepare all pupils for a future world and adult life in a multi-racial, interdependent world.

We strive to build community cohesion by promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for different groups of pupils within our school, whilst promoting shared values and encouraging pupils to engage actively with each other to understand what they all hold in common.

There are three particular areas where the school can most contribute to develop these concepts of community cohesion:

- 1. Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum**
- 2. Achieving Equity and Excellence for all**
- 3. Engagement and Extended services**

## **TEACHING, LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM**

We aim to promote community cohesion through teaching, learning and the curriculum. We help children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity while promoting shared values. We promote awareness of human rights and develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

## **Current Provision:**

- The Jigsaw PSHE curriculum is used across the school to provide opportunities for children and young people to understand emotions and feelings and how to relate positively to others, value differences and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping.
- RE lessons are planned to give children the opportunity to learn about a wide range of different cultures and systems.
- Be The Best You Can Be (BTBYCB) is embedded throughout the curriculum and all learning. Pupils have the opportunity to explore the importance and value many different community concepts through this work.
- Throughout the school, teachers plan and teach topics that give children the opportunity to learn about differences in cultures and ways of life.

- We have curriculum-based activities which develop pupils' understanding of community and diversity through trips, fieldwork, visits, for example to places of worship, and meetings with members of different communities.
- We ensure that the school's resources (including reading materials, ICT programmes, library books and displays) are appropriate and promote diversity.
- Class and whole school collective worship promotes diversity through the celebration of festivals and events from different religions. We also try to involve members of the local and wider community where possible.
- Circle time in lessons gives children the chance to talk about any issues they have and help them to develop listening skills.
- We have close links with our local churches and the various ministers help to support and nurture the Christian faith in our school community. We also invite the community to celebrate Christmas during our Christmas Concerts at St Peter and St Mary's Church in Stowmarket.
- Our choir performs at local events in the community, particularly around Christmas.
- Year 5 children participate in the County Music Service performance during the summer term.
- Children have the opportunity to take part in productions and performances as part of our school but also with other community groups (for example, our spring production at the United Reform Church, summer production at Stowmarket High School and occasional performances or events at The John Peel Centre or Salvation Army).

### **EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE**

We strive to ensure that all pupils are treated with respect and achieve their full potential irrespective of ethnic, socio economic or other differences.

#### **Current Provision:**

- We have in place systems to address, record and report all incidents of a racist nature, ensuring that the victims are well supported and perpetrators are appropriately dealt with. We refuse to tolerate any group, or person representing such a group, which advocates a philosophical or political position which we consider to be counter productive to the promoting of community cohesion within our school.
- The School's Senior Leadership and Governors will actively promote a positive climate and culture towards children's wellbeing in a 'children first climate' with all staff demonstrating care, tolerance, with a kind but firm approach for all pupils, including those with more challenging needs.
- We monitor incidents of racism and bullying; these are reported to governors and the Trust.
- We monitor and review the school's Behaviour and Relationships Policy and Attendance policy, and the sanctions and rewards systems to ensure the inclusion of all pupils.
- The school regularly reviews existing school and Trust policies and publications to ensure that all documentation is inclusive.
- We have clear induction and guidelines to welcome and support pupils and their families who are new to the school.
- Pupil achievement and attainment is rigorously tracked using the school assessment grids to ensure there are equal opportunities for all to succeed, including minority and vulnerable groups. Where pupils have specific needs arising from language or cultural issues, we endeavor to meet these needs by special interventions, within the resources of the school, to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential.
- Separate end of year pupil and parent/carer questionnaires are sent out to gauge feedback and to highlight any improvements that may be necessary.

## **EXTENDED SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT**

We aim to promote community cohesion by providing reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relationships. This will include forging links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; 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.

### **Current Provision:**

#### **Local involvement:**

- The school is part of a Sports Partnership which gives our pupils regular opportunities to meet, and learn from, other young people from similar and different backgrounds by taking part in sports festivals and tournaments with other schools in the partnership.
- The school takes up opportunities for our Gifted and Talented pupils to attend enrichment workshops at another small town school enabling collaboration with other AG&T pupils.
- Year 4 children are trained to be buddies to our Reception children at the start of the year, to teach them good friendship skills and to help develop relationships. They are also trained to be Young Leaders, facilitating the idea of working together and playing nicely, being good role models to the younger community of the school.
- Year 6 pupils have established links with Stowmarket Food Bank and pupils donate food hampers to this local cause.
- A group of children visit a local care home to sing to the residents at Christmas.
- We ensure that the voice of our pupils is heard and able to affect change by involving pupils in decision making and the running of the school. We have an active school council with children from all year groups to take on responsibilities and learn about a democratic voting system. The school council is made up of class representatives who hold a class council meeting fortnightly.
- An '*Abbot's Hall Out of School*' club runs from a section of our building offering wrap around child care for our families. In addition, the club offers holiday club provision for pupils.
- Community groups are able to rent our premises. Some of our pupils attend these evening clubs.
- We offer parent learning courses in our building, led by other agencies, to support the learning of our families.
- We are Unicef Respecting Rights Schools Gold School. We formed a Steering Group in association with the School Council to have pupil voice heard in leading the school to achieve the gold award in October 2025.
- In October 2025 we were assessed under the Quality Inclusion Mark and retained our Centre of Excellence status.

#### **National involvement:**

- Events are held to raise money for charitable causes including national charities such as the NSPCC, Comic Relief and Children in Need.
- An annual Harvest Festival is organised. Pupils are taught about the importance of helping people less fortunate than us and they donate produce for a local Food Bank.

#### **Involving parents/carers and other family members:**

- We endeavour to involve parents/carers and local adults in the learning of the children and young people and in the life of the school. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 invite parents

and other family members to come in and learn with the children, making sure they are actively involved. ('Friendly Friday' and 'Welcome Wednesday').

- In Years 3-6, parents are invited to watch their children make short presentations about their interests, recent news and school residential visits.
- Parents are invited to watch a 'Year Group' assembly performance every term for their child's year group.
- We strive to build a strong supportive partnership with parents through our parents' evenings, parents' workshops, termly curriculum booklets, encouraging ongoing dialogue through Home/School books and an open door policy.
- We have an active Parent Association ('The Friends'), supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, which organises various community events throughout the year and includes the Summer Fayre.
- An annual Parent/Carer questionnaire is sent to all families for feedback on our school and its policies and procedures. The school staff then look at ways to make changes or improvements where possible in response to this.

### **Involving the community:**

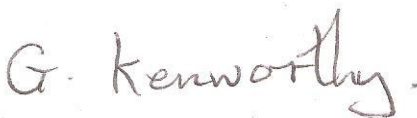
- The school invites members of the community to many school events including Summer and Christmas Fayres, watching end of year performances which are often based on a global theme such as protecting the environment.
- Our breakfast and after school club are open to children attending our school.
- The school has links with community groups and organisations such as Asda, The Food Museum, Stowmarket Leisure Centre, The Mix, The John Peel Centre, local residential homes for the elderly and the town Library, thus enabling them to play a role in the school and encouraging pupils to make a positive contribution in the local area.
- We maintain strong links with local agencies such as social care and health professionals providing tailored family support for those in need
- Local police officers are invited into school regularly to address topics such as bullying, Halloween and firework safety.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review#**

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and the governing body. It will be reviewed every two years.

Signed:   
Headteacher

Date : November 2025

Signed:   
Chairman of the Governing Body

Date: November 2025