

# St Mary's Bryanston Square Church of England Primary School

## Community Cohesion and Extended Services Core Offer

*The curriculum for all maintained schools should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

*Schools have a duty to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.*

*(Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion, DCSF)*

The aims stated above mirror those of our Mission Statement.

*"St Mary's School serves the local community and welcomes the children who come here, whatever their background and faith.*

*We aim to provide an education informed by the Christian ideal which will enable all children to fulfil their potential."*

The duty to promote community cohesion is very much part of the ethos of St Mary's as a Christian school. The common vision and sense of belonging are intrinsic to the school, as is the celebration and value of diversity.

## Statement of Values

As a Christian school we cherish the commandments to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' These are the foundations of our values.

### **Ourselves**

1. We value ourselves as unique people capable of spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical growth and development.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- develop an understanding of our own characters, strengths and weaknesses
- foster creativity and imagination
- develop self-respect and self-discipline
- make responsible use of our talents, rights and opportunities
- strive, throughout life, for knowledge, wisdom and understanding
- learn to take responsibility for our own lives.
- explore opportunities for worship

### **Relationships**

2. We value others for themselves, not only for what they have or what they can do for us. We value relationships as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of ourselves and others, and to the good of the community.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- respect others
- care for others and exercise goodwill in our dealings with them
- show others they are valued
- earn loyalty, trust and confidence
- work cooperatively with others
- respect the privacy and property of others
- resolve disputes peacefully.

### **Society**

3. We value truth, freedom, justice, human rights, the rule of law and collective effort for the common good. In particular, we value families as sources of love and support for all their members, and as the basis of a society in which people care for others.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- understand and carry out our responsibilities as citizens
- support families in raising children

- recognise that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in different kinds of family
- support the institution of marriage
- respect the rule of law and encourage others to do so
- respect religious and cultural diversity
- promote opportunities for all
- promote participation in the democratic process by all sectors of our community
- contribute to, as well as benefit fairly from, economic and cultural resources

### **The environment**

4. We value the environment, and our place in it, as the sustainer of life and a source of wonder and inspiration.

On the basis of these values, we should:

- recognise that we are stewards of our planet and accept our responsibility to
- maintain a sustainable environment for future generations
- understand the place of human beings within nature and our responsibilities for other species

### **Policies in place:**

- Equal Opportunities Statement
- Race Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy

### **Actions in place to promote Community Cohesion:**

- Admissions Policy (prioritises families living in the parish)
- Behaviour Policy
- Zero tolerance of racist, sexist or other personal abuse
- Celebrations throughout school of diversity (Black History Month, Refugee Week, etc)
- Celebrations of national and international events (World Book Day, St George's Day, etc)
- Thematic assemblies (reflected in RE Scheme of Work) encourage exploration of cross faith themes. Knowledge and awareness of other faiths promoted through assemblies and RE scheme of work.
- Support for children with special and/or additional needs
- Identification and support for those underachieving

- Awareness of the needs of the wider community reflected in fundraising and community events, eg: carol singing for the Day Centre, collections for St Mungos, Harvest collections for BESOM, Pakistan Earthquake Appeal, etc.
- Close neighbourhood links (school involved in planning for neighbourhood street party, facilities used by local businesses, etc)
- School accessibility prioritised (new lift being installed, step free access to ground floor, 'soundfield system' in all classes, etc)
- Rich and varied curriculum (and club provision) with opportunities for children to achieve in a range of spheres
- Special events for parents - varied to encourage wide participation (Spanish themed *Governors and Parents Meeting*, for example)

### **Extended Schools Provision:**

Currently we offer:

- Breakfast Club and After School Club
- Provision of very varied range of lunchtime after school activities
- Facilities for Cubs, Brownies, etc and Karate clubs running from 5 pm to 9 pm during the week.
- Regular Family Learning opportunities
- Curriculum and information evenings for parents
- Regular surveys of parental opinion
- School council-pupil voice
- Regular school trips to range of artistic, sporting and cultural venues
- Close links with parents and community through "Friends of St Mary's"
- Good links with the Portman Children's Centre and Marlborough
- Extensive use of external services where appropriate

### **Every Child Matters Outcomes:**

#### **Stay Safe:**

- All staff, club leaders and volunteers subject to CRB checks
- Whole staff child protection awareness raised through meetings and training
- Risk assessments in place. Risks minimised.
- Established Injury minimisation programme with Year 6 and St Mary's Hospital
- Awareness of many issues (internet safety, cyber-bullying, gangs, road safety, etc) raised (whole school 'Respect Week in 2008, for example).
- Established and popular cycle training with another local school.
- Year 6 participation in Westminster 'Junior Citizen' event.
- Drugs awareness in Year 6 raised through well-established programme, including ADAD workshops for pupils and parents.

### Be Healthy:

- Physical exercise and healthy eating a priority - school was awarded ActivMark and SportsMark in 2007.
- Daily 'Activate' programme for all Key Stages
- Annual, fun Sports Day
- Activity week for Year 6
- Participation in Healthy Schools Programme. New award to be applied for in 2008/09.
- Regular input from LA 'Life Education Bus'

### Enjoy and Achieve

- All children given opportunity to have success and this is celebrated through awards, sharing of work and an emphasis on positive reinforcement
- Potentially underachieving groups monitored and supported effectively. No significantly underperforming groups identified in school.

### Make a Positive Contribution

- Children aware of their value and the impact they can have on lives of others
- Curriculum includes awareness of wider community issues, for example environment and global issues. Fundraising is encouraged and successful.
- St Mary's attained the Eco-Schools bronze award in 2009 as part of its progress towards being recognised as a sustainable school.

### Economic Wellbeing:

- Children equipped with good, or better, basic skills
- Parents supported in Family Learning and referred to relevant agencies for support where necessary

Community Cohesion is paramount and, at St Mary's, we support this through the Core Offer we are currently able to make for Extended Services Provision. We are constantly reviewing our offer and seeking ways to be even more effective.