



Community Cohesion Policy for Mulberry School for Girls

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Community Cohesion and Community Learning Policy 2024

Aims and Objectives of the Policy

At Mulberry School for Girls, we recognise the pivotal role we play in developing community cohesion and community learning.

Mulberry is committed to working with all members of our local community. We recognise the importance of building strong relationships with parents, schools and third party organisations in the local area.

We are committed to supporting this by:

- Developing a common vision and sense of belonging
- Developing an appreciation of the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances
- Building strong and positive relationships with local and wider communities
- Ensuring that students' progress is enhanced because of their parents' engagement, and that this effective engagement also further improves students' destinations to university and apprenticeships
- Providing a rich and vibrant programme of remote and face to face activities and ensuring that all parents are included in this
- Ensuring that communications with parents are regular and lead to even further strengthening of relationships

The term 'community' has a number of dimensions for us including:

- The school community, the young people it serves, their parents/carers, the staff, the Governing Body and community users of the school's facilities and services
- The communities created by the networks we establish with schools, colleges, work based learning providers and other partners/stakeholders
- The local community of Tower Hamlets
- The City of London
- The UK community
- The Global community.

Mulberry School plays an active part in the borough and especially in our local community. We have a strong programme of parent voice events and an alumni programme for former pupils of the school. There are parent trips regularly to places of cultural, religious or educational interest such as to the theatre, the museums, heritage buildings or other towns and cities. A comprehensive programme of classes in areas of educational interest runs for parents including swimming, keep fit, food hygiene certificates and cooking, ICT and ESOL.

General Principles

Mulberry School for Girls helps to build community cohesion by:

- Promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion for all students, irrespective of background in terms of prior attainment, culture, ethnicity, religious belief, or socioeconomic circumstances
- Promoting school values and encouraging students to engage with others to understand what they all hold in common.
- Exploring with students the rich multi-cultural pluralism of British society and a wide range of global perspectives appropriate to being part of a 21st century global citizenry

The school's contribution to community cohesion includes the following areas of work:

Progress and achievement

- Mulberry School for Girls promotes high standards of achievement for all. The school sets challenging individual targets for all our students, monitors their progress regularly and has robust strategies of intervention and support
- Mulberry School for Girls aims to ensure there are no barriers to achievement, and works to remove disparities in attainment between different groups
- Mulberry School for Girls promotes an inclusive, caring, supporting ethos and maintains a highly effective pastoral system
- Mulberry School for Girls expects the highest standards of behaviour and has effective approaches in place to deal with incidents of prejudice, bullying and harassment
- Mulberry School for Girls works very closely with parents and carers and the local community

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Curriculum enrichment

- Mulberry School for Girls is an outstanding school with high standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision
- Mulberry School for Girls helps young people to understand others, to value diversity, respect human rights and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action
- There are many opportunities across the curriculum to promote shared values and help students' value differences, and to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping. This is particularly evident in our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and is clearly evident throughout the taught curriculum, particularly through Religious Studies, Citizenship, History and Geography
- An extensive programme of curricular and extra-curricular activities enrich students' understanding of community and diversity including Model United Nations, a student led Youth Conference, the Partnership of Equals conference and participation in the Women of the World

festival. This also includes programmes such as Magic Me, which promotes intergenerational understanding and friendships within Tower Hamlets

The school will continue to

- Strive to ensure that every student achieves their potential by setting challenging targets, monitoring progress and developing more effective intervention and support mechanisms including tacking and monitoring the performance of particular groups in school.
- Develop our pastoral systems to promote a caring supportive ethos free from prejudice, discrimination and bullying.
- Develop opportunities for our students to travel within the UK and abroad and interact with students from different backgrounds and cultures

School, Parents and the Community

- Students have numerous opportunities to take responsibility through form representative roles, peer mentors, prep facilitators, reading partners, school council, Model UN, the Youth Conference and other enrichment programmes
- Students participate in voluntary community-based activities through charity work, social action and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and individually negotiated opportunities throughout the School
- The school engages with parents through a range of activities including consultation evenings, weekly phone calls home, focus groups, targeting questionnaires and coffee mornings
- We have strong links with work-based learning providers and employers
- We engage with local community groups, providing facilities for a range of community activities.

We have particularly strong links with a range of local primary schools. We have good links with local charities.

The school will continue to work with parents/carers and the community by:

- Reviewing and expanding the current programme for parents/careers and the community
- Increasing the diversity of the range of programmes on offer
- Continuing to build a culture of mutuality and multi-racial and multi-faith unity
- Promoting opportunities for parents to be involved in the school and their child's learning
- Promoting ongoing learning opportunities for our parents
- Developing our links with community groups and organisations.
- Developing student voice.
- Strengthening our links with voluntary community based activities.

The school will engage with extended services by:

- Continuing to develop our partnerships with primary schools and other stakeholders
- Continuing to develop our international links
- Continuing to involve Governors more closely in links with our partner schools, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Promoting learning opportunities for our wider community.

Engagement within the Trust

- The Mulberry Trust provides opportunities for students to be involved in a wide range of activities and to interact with other students