

An invitation to all parents.

Please read the information below

Community Cohesion

What is Community Cohesion?

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion, published in July 2007, states that:

"By community cohesion we mean working towards a society in which:

- there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities
- the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued
- similar life opportunities are available to all, and
- strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community."

How do schools contribute?

Schools' contribution to promoting community cohesion can be considered from three broad perspectives:

1. **Teaching, learning and curriculum** — helping children and young people to learn to understand others,
2. **Equity and excellence** — to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest level possible
3. **Engagement and extended services** — to provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds

The four dimensions of community.

What do we mean by 'community'? The word 'community' has many meanings. Four dimensions are defined in the DCSF guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion. These are:

1. The school as a community
2. The community within which the school is located
3. The UK community
4. The global community

So what does this mean for us at Bishop Fox's?

Most schools have been working to promote Community Cohesion for many years. We at Bishop Fox's have engaged in many inspirational and pioneering events, activities and initiatives in our drive to create a caring, diverse and equal school that addresses the needs of the school, the local and global community. However, we are aware that more could be done in this area.

We would like to invite you to become a Parent member of a community group, that represents our school. Your membership could be on many different levels.:

- To inform the school of any community projects that you are actively involved in. You can do this by email to the school.
- To work with our Community Action Squad (a group of Year 10 students) on a number of Community Projects – this will involve work within the school, the local community and the global community. Although the Squad have some ideas for the coming term any ideas that you may have for projects to be carried out are very welcome.
- To work with Governors, The Senior Leadership Team, including Lee Porter (Business and Enterprise Manager) and/or Belinda Gregory Community Cohesion Lead Professional on developing an active and inclusive role for parents in assisting us to develop links with our community.

For more information on Community Cohesion there is detailed and comprehensive information on www.teachernet.gov.uk

If you would like to become involved in having a Community Cohesion Role within our school, no matter how small, we would appreciate any time, knowledge or skills that you can offer.

Please contact Belinda Gregory via the school's office by e-mail or letter:

office@bishopfoxs.somerset.sch.uk

01823 289211

Thank you for taking the time to read this invitation.