



Unity Academy

Community Cohesion and Partnership Policy

Linked policies (non-exhaustive list) include:

Anti-bullying

Behaviour

Accessibility Plan

Equality

Extremism and Radicalisation

FCAT Unity Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Visiting Speaker

Volunteer

Reviewed: March 2018

Approved by Principal: 8/4/18

Next review: March 2021

Community Cohesion is defined as ‘promoting a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the work place, in schools and the wider community’.

The academy’s work to create an ethos of strong community in all aspects of its work is underpinned by the core values of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust (Respect, Ambition, Pride, Integrity, Excellence and Resilience). Unity in the Community is a central pillar of the academy improvement plan. This encompasses community volunteering, social action and initiatives to raise the aspirations and self-confidence of our school and local community in particular.

These provide a framework within which children come first and interlock with embedded (British) values of tolerance, democracy, mutual respect, individual liberty and the rule of law.

Equity and Excellence

The Academy’s policies and practices are designed to ensure equal opportunities for all members of the academy community to be successful at the very highest level in any given activity. This is achieved by maximising access to and participation in learning and a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including educational visits and by seeking to eliminate variations in academic outcomes for individual and groups of students.

How does Unity Academy contribute to community and partnership?

The academy is proactive in promoting community and partnership by:

- ensuring equality of opportunity for all learners
- encouraging a strong sense of belonging and a shared vision by all members of the Academy community
- promoting high expectations and exemplary behaviour
- providing opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of activities and volunteering opportunities in order to contribute to the community within the local and wider community e.g. through Unity in the Community initiatives
- engaging constructively and generously with other schools and our wider community to help build real links to help bind society
- ensuring appropriate partners with values and objectives in common

The following academy systems and structures are designed to achieve these goals.

Curriculum

The academy curriculum is designed to:

- help teach students tolerance and understanding of other cultures and faiths
- promote shared (British) values and challenge prejudice
- promote respect for rules and the rule of law
- promote awareness of individual and collective human rights and of the responsibility of everyone to uphold and defend these
- develop the skills of participation and responsible action

Engagement and Extended services

Unity Academy:

- Provides opportunities for all members of the community to raise awareness of and better understand other cultures by developing links with other schools, the local community, nationally and around the world
- Provides a range of extended services with opportunities for pupils, students, families and the wider community to participate in activities and to receive services which develop positive interaction and promote achievement for all groups
- Provides a variety of age-appropriate support to children from ages 2-16 and their families
- Shares facilities and learning opportunities with other local schools to support development and build partnership

Through our ethos and shared vision (exemplified by our 'In Unity We Succeed' motto), the Academy seeks to promote community and partnership locally, within the UK and globally. Examples of actions which support this include:

Locally

- Significant pupil and student support systems within school, including Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, paired reading schemes, peer mentors and Sports Leaders
- Regularly seeking and acting upon the feedback of children of all ages
- A range of questionnaires sampling academy stakeholder voice
- Students have a strong voice in decisions that affect their learning and many undertake additional roles with significant responsibilities, including School Council and Student Leadership Team
- Prefects assume responsibility for the leadership of events, activities and social time
- Comprehensive tracking of the academic progress of all students, launching and monitoring the impact of supportive intervention, with particular consideration for students at risk of underachieving
- Taking part in an extensive inter-school fixtures and competitions across the curriculum e.g. Mathematics Challenge, Young Engineers, Primary Science conference within Blackpool and beyond. These include themed weeks and House competitions.
- promoting community health through the use of sports facilities and partnership with Blackpool Football Club Community Trust
- Providing learning resources to help parents to support safer online experiences for their children
- Early Help intervention and multi-agency safeguarding meetings overseen by the FCAT Safeguarding Board
- Engaging with a wide variety of community groups through activities such as the distribution of Harvest Festival and Unity Appeal boxes to local residents and the Street Life Project

- Encouraging the local community to participate in a wide range of events e.g. concerts, productions and open events
- A close partnership with Blackpool Football Club, working together to improve attendance, community health and to increase overall community engagement
- Through the work of Unity Academy Community Volunteers
- The work of individual pupils/students and Houses with local charities e.g. Carers' Trust, Donna's Dream House and Blackpool Victoria Hospital
- School Council and Anti Bullying Ambassador appointments

Within the UK

- High profile and embedded British Values
- Mock General Elections and democratic votes within the academy
- UK Youth Parliament
- Extending and developing the school curriculum through a wide range of trips to places of interest in the UK and by participating in national events and activities
- Actively using assemblies to promote awareness of national issues such as democracy, homelessness and racial prejudice
- Regular individual, House and whole academy charity 'drives' to support local and national charities, including Cancer Research, Red Nose Day Appeal and Children in Need
- Health ambassador partnership with Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Globally

- Opportunities for students to travel to different countries to allow students to experience and learn from other cultures
- Actively utilising assemblies to promote awareness of human rights
- Awareness of 'Brexit', the changing relationship of the UK with Europe and the rest of the world and the need to work to avoid negative impact on relationships

Our next step is to develop a series of Unity Pledges, which offer enhanced community experiences for all pupils and students and which demand effort, commitment and a sustained approach.

Impact will be assessed through academic progress and attainment measurements, quality of teaching reviews, periodic Phase Review and other quality assurance mechanisms, overseen by the Academy Council.

Next Review: March 2021