



Community Cohesion

CET Approval:
Governors

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n/a

Varndean College

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This policy sets out how Varndean College will contribute to community cohesion

1 What do we mean by Community Cohesion?

By “community cohesion” we mean working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people’s backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in education and in the wider community.

For this College, the term “community” has different dimensions, encompassing:

The College community – the young people it serves, as well as their parents, carers and families, the staff and members of Corporation, adult learners and community users of our facilities and services

The local community – the geographical community in which we are located and the people who live and work in this area. This applies not just to the immediate neighbourhood but to the wider City of Brighton and Hove and beyond.

The UK community

The global community

In addition the College itself helps create different communities through its partnership and collaborative working with other colleges, schools and agencies.

2. How will the College contribute to community cohesion?

The College will contribute to community cohesion through three broad areas of its practice:

- Equity and excellence
- Teaching and learning and the curriculum
- Entitlement and enrichment

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(a) Equity and Excellence

The College will strive to ensure equality of opportunity for all to achieve their full potential

The College will undertake to widen participation in learning and remove barriers to access.

The College will work towards eliminating variations in outcomes for different groups.

(b) Teaching and Learning and the Curriculum

Through its teaching and learning and curriculum, the College will ensure there are opportunities to:

- Value diversity and understand others from different backgrounds
- Promote good, harmonious relationships and respect mutual understanding
- Promote shared values
- Promote awareness of human rights and to apply and defend them
- Develop skills of participation and responsible action
- Develop social and inter-personal skills

These opportunities will exist within the qualification curriculum, the tutorial programme and through enrichment activities.

(c) Engagement and Entitlement

Through its broader activities, the College will provide opportunities for interaction with people from different backgrounds and building positive relations, including:

- Links with partners schools, including the co-located Link College
- International links and visits
- Volunteering and service
- Work experience and work-related learning
- Outreach work with adults and foundation learners in local communities
- Student mentoring scheme
- Multi-agency and partnership working with local agencies e.g. local prevent team

3) Encouraging good practice

To encourage good practice in the promotion of community cohesion the College will:

- Seek to identify the needs of different learners and groups within the local communities we serve
- Be open to consultation with representative organisations
- Provide relevant staff development opportunities
- Regularly review related policies and procedures, including the Single Equalities Scheme.
- Assess our progress through the annual self-assessment review.