



St Paul's CE Primary School

Statement on Community Cohesion

Approved by: Children, Families and Communities Committee
On: Wednesday 18th May 2022
Review: May 2025

School Context

St Paul's Primary School is a popular two form-entry Church of England primary school serving the Parish of St Paul's in the Diocese of London, since the 1870s. The school became 2FE from September 2015 to meet the demand for places in the local area.

The school was established to serve the poor of the Parish in a rapidly growing, industrial and trading community in the late Victorian period. The industrial units in the locality and the port infrastructure along the river have been closed for a number of decades and the area is experiencing significant re-building. Housing, mainly flats, is replacing the old infrastructure.

There was an extremely high demand for primary places in Hounslow and in particular in our ward in the early 2010s. This was the result of an increase in the birth rate and inward mobility due to extensive residential development. Since 2019-20, as a result of Brexit and the COVID pandemic, we have seen a sharp decline in pupil numbers, as families have moved away from Brentford. School place planning has become more volatile and vacancy rates across London have climbed. The school agreed a temporary one-form admission into Reception in September 2021 and has agreed a second temporary one-form admission into Reception in September 2022.

In autumn 2021, the school consulted on changes to our admission criteria, to remove foundation places and reflect the standard admissions of LA maintained schools. These changes have been agreed and will come into effect in September 2023. These changes should make access to our school for local families more straightforward.

The school prides itself on providing a first class education, within a happy, safe environment, serving a diverse community. White British pupils make up 19.2% of the school's population, White and Black Caribbean pupils make up 8% of the school's population and White any other background pupils make up a further 6.1% of the school's population. The remaining population consists of a wide spread of ethnicities, each representing single figure percentages. 45% of our school population have a first language other than English. We have a higher than national deprivation measure (37.7% eligible for Pupil premium).

The school is also diverse in terms of religious affiliation. From declared affiliation, we know that Christian families from a wide range of Christian traditions make up just over half of the pupils. We also have Muslim, Hindu and Sikh pupils. Approximately 50% of our families declare no religious affiliation. All are welcome at our school.

Community Cohesion

We live and work in one of the most diverse, cosmopolitan communities in the world. London is a lively and open city which seeks to be ever more tolerant, within a framework of shared and evolving values. The population is drawn from across the world and the city offers refuge, opportunity, freedom and respect to those coming from more repressive or unstable parts of the world. As a result of the history of our city, including periods of inequality, the community increasingly challenges intolerance and prejudice. Our school celebrates and reflects the ethos of our city in our work.

Our school community is built on different races, religions, ages, economic backgrounds and includes those with disabilities. Regardless of background, every child and adult is valued. We recognise that each has unique qualities and talents, that we seek to develop and extend. Our role is to strengthen and deepen the relationships and interactions that hold together our city and our country.

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Community

We achieve our vision for community cohesion through a wide range of day-to-day actions, which alter from year to year, reflecting significant national and local events. Actions which help us to achieve our aims include:

Curriculum

Learning about British Values, our shared history, the diversity of our community, the positive contribution we can all make to society, Christian and community values

- A wide and rich curriculum to engage pupils in learning in all subjects.
- A careful selection of curriculum resources, for example texts studied in English lessons, to reflect and celebrate the diversity of our community.
- Participation and celebration of national events and competitions.
- Offering a range of educational visits to children across year groups, locally and further afield.
- The school works with local partners to provide a range of after-school activities, which often signpost children and families to local clubs and societies.

Leadership and Rules/Value Agreement

Putting values into practice, contributing actively to the development and improvement of our school and society, building respect for one another, confidence and a sense of responsibility for our own well being and for that of others.

- Each class negotiate and share a set of basic classroom rules at the start of each academic year, reflecting upon how fair, agreed rules help a community to achieve.
- The school has a core set of rules, that reflect the Christian ethos underpinning our school and essential British values.
- The school is not over-burdened with rules, as there is a shared belief in respect and care for one another.
- The school has a functioning school council, with elections and representation for pupils from year 1 to year 6. The school council meets regularly and meets with school governors.
- The school promotes pupil leadership in a variety of ways, including through sports leaders and peer reading buddies.
- The school is arranged across two sites with split ages to encourage positive relationships between pupils of differing ages.

Community Engagement

Contributing to and participating in our community, celebrating the richness and diversity of our community. Understanding the history and development of our locality.

- Our school choir sing in the community, at the local supermarket, at the stroke club who meet in our church and at a local home for the elderly as well as in local choir concerts and to our parents and pupils.
- Our pupil premium advocate organises educational visits to local amenities, sites and businesses in order to deepen pupil's understanding of their community and the opportunities that it provides.
- The school has a working relationship with the Friends of St Paul's Recreation Area, seeking to enhance and develop the locality.
- The school works actively to support our church mission, planning worship together and supporting the church's ministry.
- Harvest gifts from the school are distributed to elderly and vulnerable households in the immediate vicinity of the school. Pupils, supported by staff, prepare these boxes and distribute them directly. Surplus gifts are passed on to the local food bank.
- The school participates in a range of charitable activities, including the annual *Samaritan Purse* Christmas gift appeal and charities identified by staff and pupils.
- The school has an active Parent Friends Association which organises social and fundraising events throughout the year.
- The school organises an annual day trip to the seaside for families and friends of the school.
- The school engages in local events including the Pantomime at the Watermans.
- The school newsletter and email communications are used to forward details of third party events and opportunities offered in the local community.
- Our celebratory school services are open to past pupils, families, staff and friends of the school. This brings together the wider school community.

National Events

Marking and recognising significant events in the life of the nation, reflecting our part in these events and the significance of national events in the life of our community.

- The school marks and participates in key annual events in the life of our nation, for example taking up a collection for The Royal British Legion and marking the silence at 11am on Remembrance Day, marking World Book Day, Anti-Bullying events, Comic Relief etc.
- The school marks and participates in one-off, unique, national events. For example the Queen's birthday, key sporting events staged in the UK and key political events.
- The school marks significant events in the Christian and national calendar, including St Paul's day in January.

Partnership Working

Supporting resilience across and beyond our immediate community, drawing on the wider pool of skills and talents available through established partnerships.

- The school participates in partnerships through the local authority and the London Diocese Board for Schools. These partnerships help to strengthen the school's offer across all areas of its work.
- The school supports and builds partnerships through the Ealing and Hounslow Church Heads' group. In the past school year, this partnership has been active in developing support workshops across the schools in the group.
- The school has a significant history of reaching out to share experience and skills with local schools in needs of support, through the LDBS.