

Eastcombe Primary School

Community Cohesion Statement

On the surface, cohesiveness does not seem a big challenge for Eastcombe Primary School, a popular, primary in a predominantly rural area in picturesque Gloucestershire, 10 mins from Stroud. The area has a semi-affluent/ affluent community, with farming roots and a catchment from the immediate locality and wider radius. That said, it does not always guarantee that a school in our position naturally becomes the heart of its community.

The Headteacher and the school staff /community have worked hard to ensure that the school is an active contributor to the life of the local residents and wider environment.

We offer a range of after school clubs; open our doors to the community (chiefly parents) allowing active involvement in our school day. Although our premises are not fully DDA-friendly, we are part of the community. We work closely with outside agencies in ensuring we offer as much as possible to the wide range of learners in our care. A sense of belonging to the community is anchored in our ethos.

We are equally aware of the wider challenge and have achieved the Full International Award from the British Council in recognition of our work in this field. We enrich our curriculum as much as possible e.g. International weeks, visiting dance teachers, authors and musicians. Even in our active community there is diversity and complexity with pockets of deprivation and isolation. We don't study differences, we learn about similarities and take the philosophy that shared values are central to everything we do.

Community Cohesion is a key 'theme' for schools; Eastcombe Primary School is already well established in this development. No single solution can be followed that will suit every school but Eastcombe Primary School is flexible and adaptable well able to continue to grow expanding and extending Community Cohesion naturally.

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