

## Community Cohesion at Rockwood Nursery School

### What is it?

Community cohesion is where we work together as a society to help share a common vision as well as being able to feel welcomed by all communities. The diversity of people's backgrounds and conditions should be respected and valued. There must be equal opportunities for everyone which will help create positive relationships regardless of people's background, religion or circumstances. The community as a whole should have an understanding that everyone has a right to equality.

### What we do at Rockwood to support Community Cohesion

At Rockwood Nursery School a sense of Community is built on through our key person system where each child is allocated a key person to oversee all their needs and learning, giving the child a sense of belonging and enabling staff to get know individual children and families more personally.

Throughout the year we celebrate a variety of cultural festivals and local community awareness events. Some of these include:-

\*PCSO visits - The local Police Community Support Officer visits the nursery to speak to the children about 'Stranger Danger' and how we deal with dangerous situations.

\*Fire services - The Firemen often visit to talk to the children about fire safety, and staying safe around Bonfire Night. They also bring their fire engine so the children can explore it and sit inside it. This helps to give the children an insight into different occupations and ways of life.

\*Eid - To celebrate Eid we have asked parents to come into nursery to do some traditional Asian cooking with the children enabling them to try Asian foods such as chicken rice, samosas, and shish kebabs. Other people help us to including visits from a lady from the Pushpanjali dancing group who taught the children some traditional Bollywood dancing and creative storytelling ideas.

\*Diwali - To develop the children's awareness of Diwali we like to offer the children the opportunity to make Diwali clay lamps called Diya's, make dens so we can light up our torches and share books about Diwali with the children. We sometimes explore Diwali information video's on the whiteboard showing the children the real life events during Diwali to help give them an understanding of the different events from cultural backgrounds.

\*Christmas - At Christmas time we like to tell the children the traditional Christian story. We make Christmas cards to send home to loved ones and we make Christmas tree decorations. The musical group 'BEST' regularly visit nursery to sing Christmas songs with the children and help them build their knowledge and understanding of what Christmas is all about.

\*Easter - To help celebrate Easter we have hatched chicks in the nursery, helping the children understand about new life, lifecycles and how to care for living things. We often make Easter cards, and we have also make Easter nests.

\*Chinese New Year - To celebrate Chinese New Year we encourage the children try traditional Chinese foods such as noodles and stir fry as a snack. We also support the children to make money wallets and place a coin inside and provide a variety of activities based around the animal that is being celebrated that year.



As part of our engagement with the community, the school works closely with other local nursery schools and primary schools to facilitate better relationships, training opportunities and support for our families and children. We work with other local services like the library service, various health professionals, the Early Interventions and Wellbeing service (presently Burnley Wood Children's Centre), domestic abuse local services and social services to provide suitable provision for our families.

Our governing body has assigned a role of Community Cohesion governor in order to facilitate our engagement with the local community and enable our governors to stay up to date with the locality. Presently, this is Councillor Mrs Margaret Brindle.