

Improving Opportunity, strengthening society

- increasing race equality and community cohesion

A government strategy to ensure that a person's ethnicity is not a barrier to their success and to foster social cohesion. The strategy sets out a vision for an inclusive British Society in which:

Young people from different communities grow up with a sense of common belonging,

- highlights School Partnerships (links) and improving opportunities for young people to 'learn and socialise together and to develop an inclusive sense of British identity alongside their other cultural identities'.

People have opportunities to develop a greater understanding of the range of cultures that contribute to our strength as a country,

- highlights the role of sports and the arts in bringing people together. The majority of school links use sports and arts projects as tools for developing and enhancing partnerships between schools and building positive relations between staff and pupils.

Racism is unacceptable.

- School links that tackle the issue of racism do so in a way that impacts on the pupils for life, they are not simply taught racism is unacceptable they develop friendships, participate in activities and have real life experiences which help them understand and believe that racism is unacceptable.

New immigrants are integrated,

- School links through activities exploring identity can help to integrate new immigrants into schools. Some school links have actively raised awareness of the issues surrounding immigration, refugees and asylum seekers through their link.

People from all backgrounds have the opportunities to participate in civic society,

- In many cases school links can help to develop skills for all pupils to be able to participate in civic society.

Extremists who promote hatred are marginalised,

- highlights the newly introduced legislation to make ‘incitement to religious hatred an offence’. It is important for schools to be aware that extremist organisations can try to undermine school links that promote race equality and community cohesion. See **how** section for more information.