

Fairhouse Primary School



Equality Policy

Updated: Autumn 2017

To be reviewed: Spring 2019

Equality Plan

1. Vision Statement

We value ourselves, the school and the wider community where individuals are respected and are allowed to recognise and achieve their potential; in order that they have the skills to make informed choices and lead fulfilling lives. Children learn about the community in which they live.

2. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out within this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide all of our children with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of children.
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps.
- Take account of the achievement of all children when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets.
- Ensure equality of access for all children and prepare them for life in a diverse society.
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping.
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice.
- Provide opportunities for children to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.
- Seek to involve all parents and carers in supporting their child's education.
- Encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning.
- Include teaching and classroom based approaches appropriate for the whole school community, which are inclusive and reflective of our children.

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's 'Behaviour Polic'. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

3. Equal Opportunities for Staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at our school and should be read in conjunction with the Equality and Diversity in Employment Policy as prepared by the Local Authority and adopted by this school.

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit. We are committed to ensure wherever possible that the staff of the school reflects the diversity of our community.

Employer Duties

As an employer we need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

Equality aspects such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and religion are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention including bullying and harassment of staff.
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff.
- Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

4. Equality and the law

There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with legislation from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000), Disability Equality Duty (2005) and Equality Act (2006).

The action plan at the end of this Equality Plan outlines the actions our school will take to meet the general duties detailed below.

4a. Race Equality

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy, SEN Information report and Accessibility Plan.

The General Race Equality requires us to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination.
- Promote equality of opportunity.
- Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare an Equality Plan which includes our written policy for race quality.
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this plan, on children, staff and parents and carers by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these children.
- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such children, staff and parents and carers towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups.

4b. Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy, SEN Information report and Accessibility Plan.

Definition of Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect to his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

The DDA 2005 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities;
- Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is "clinically well-recognised", although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse impact on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Legal duties

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005 placed a general duty on schools, requiring them to have due regard for the following when carrying out and delivering services to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people.
- Eliminate discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability.
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- Encourage participation in public life by disabled people.
- Take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme identifying our disability equality goals and actions to meet them.
- Review and revise this scheme every three years.

4c. Gender Equality

The Gender Equality Duty 2006 places a general and specific duty on schools to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of gender and to promote equality of opportunity between female and male children and between women and men and transgender people.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex and gender reassignment.
- Promote equality between men and women.

4d. Sexual Orientation

The Equality Act 2006 made provision for regulations to be introduced to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of religion or belief to sexual orientation.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 came into force on 30th April 2007, and they made discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools, this means admissions, benefits and services for children and treatment of children.

5. Consultation and involvement

It is a requirement that the development of this plan and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, children and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from parent questionnaires, parents evening, pupil questionnaire and informal meetings with parents and other agencies.
- Input from staff through staff meetings/INSET.
- Feedback from the school council, PSHE lessons.
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans mentoring and support.
- Feedback at Governing board meetings.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Governors

The governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this plan and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to children, and responsive to their needs based on race, gender and disability.

The governing body seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school on grounds of race, gender or disability.

The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible to parents, carers and children.

The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever a child's socio-economic background, race, gender or disability.

The governing body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their race, sex or disability.

The role of the Headteacher

It is their role to implement the school's Equality Plan and s/he is supported by the governing body in doing so.

It is their role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Plan, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.

The Headteacher ensures that all appointment panels give due regard to this plan, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.

The Headteacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life.

The Headteacher treats all incidence of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness.

The role of all staff: teaching or non-teaching

All staff will ensure that all children are treated fairly, equally and with respect and will maintain awareness of the school's Equality Plan.

All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability and challenges stereotypical images.

All staff will challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the headteacher.

Teachers support the work of support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents.

7. Tackling discrimination

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a child's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, and reported to the Inclusion Team. All incidents are reported to the Headteacher and racist incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as “any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.”

Types of discriminatory incident

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender.
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes.
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti.
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia.
- Bringing discriminatory material into school.
- Verbal abuse and threats.
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim’s race, disability, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion.
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups.
- Ridicule of an individual for difference eg food, music, religion, dress etc.
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Responding to and reporting incidents

It should be clear to children and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should deal with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.

Refer to our Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy.