



Equal Opportunities Policy

Date drawn up: 15th May 2016

Date discussed with staff: 15th May 2016

Date agreed by Resources Committee: 16th May 2016

Date of review: June 2019

Lead Professional: Robert Pike

Mission statement:

Learning today for all our tomorrows in our caring, Christian community

This policy applies to all children in school. This policy extends to the school's recruitment and admission procedures.

This policy takes account of:

Equality and Human Rights Commission directives

The Equality Act 2010

Human Rights Act 1998

The Prevent Duty 2015

The Common Inspection Framework 2015

This policy is to be read in conjunction with all other policies. Please particularly cross refer to the following:

- Admissions
- Anti-Bullying
- Assessment, Reporting and Recording
- Behaviour
- Complaints
- Learning Environments
- First Aid and Administering Medicines
- Health and Safety including Out of School Activities and Visits
- English and Maths expectations
- Marking and feedback
- Risk Assessments
- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Teaching and Learning
- SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural)

It is also underpinned by the school's mission statement and values of: strength, truthfulness, neighbourly, independence, creativity and sportsmanship.

Aims:

- To promote self-esteem and to foster the social and emotional growth of each child throughout school life and in particular through the school's pastoral system and the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum.
- To endeavour to ensure that all children have equal access to a broad and balanced programme differentiated where appropriate.
- To ensure that all staff set an example by demonstrating positive, non-discriminatory behaviour in their interactions with each other and with the children.
- To respect the cultural and ethnic diversity of children, parents/carers and staff, welcoming the enrichment of the environment which this brings, and to foster positive attitudes towards our multi-cultural society.
- To recognise and value differing cultures, customs and beliefs within the teaching of PSHE(C), SMSC and religious studies in order to teach tolerance of others ideas and values.
- To ensure every child is given an equal opportunity to experience success appropriate to their ability, through carefully planned and differentiated activities.
- To make use of opportunities within the life of the school to increase religious awareness and tolerance and to forge links with the wider community in order to promote an understanding of and respect for others, whilst maintaining an understanding and appreciation of British values.
- To ensure that none of the following groups face any form of discrimination: Race, Disability, Religion or belief, Sexual orientation or Gender reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity/Paternity and Age.

Managing Equality in Practice:

- Having an Admissions Policy that clearly states our policy on equal opportunities.
- We will make every effort to ensure that no child, parent or member of staff is disadvantaged as a result of their disability in line with our responsibility under the Equality Act 2010. 'Reasonable' adjustments will be made to overcome any factor which puts a disabled child, parent/carer or staff member at a disadvantage.
- Accessibility arrangements are regularly reviewed under the Special Education

Needs and Disability Act 2010 SEND:

- Discriminatory language and behaviour and other acts of intolerance are not accepted. (See Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and PSHE(c) Policies and SMSC Policy)
- The school recognises the value of children having male and female role models. However, vacant posts are always filled by the best applicant, irrespective of gender.
- Both men and women are encouraged to work with all age groups and each key stage.
- All staff have equal access to in-service training and posts of responsibility.
- The continuing development of our community and the equality of opportunity on which it is based, requires the co-operation and commitment of all concerned and we trust that all parents/carers will wish to give their full support to the school in this vital aspect of its life.
- The school will promote positive images and role models to avoid prejudice and raise awareness of related issues.
- The school has clear policy and procedures for supporting children who are identified as having specific learning difficulties.
- Equality of Opportunity and celebration of Diversity in all its forms will be reflected in all practice.

Language:

The school views linguistic diversity positively. Children and staff must feel that their first language is valued and creates the conditions for all people to develop their self-esteem. Staff will use the correct terminology when referring to particular groups of people or individuals e.g. Inuit instead of Eskimo.

Resources:

The school aims to provide a wide range of good quality resources in order to provide for the needs of all pupils, irrespective of sex, ability or ethnic origin. Resources are chosen to reflect positive images of males and females in society including those with disabilities. All resources are equally accessible to all members of the school community.

Parents/carers:

The school is committed to working closely with parents/carers and when appropriate with other agencies. We will introduce and communicate the equal opportunities policy to parents/carers through the school newsletter, website and admission meetings. In addition, copies of our policies are available for all parents/carers on request and signposted on the school website.

Curriculum:

Equality of opportunity permeates the whole curriculum and will be reviewed regularly. It is the policy of this school to provide equal access to all activities.

Children:

It is the right of every child irrespective of race, culture, class, gender, special need or ability to achieve their full potential. Each child should have access to an education which will enable him/her to utilise their talents to the full and achieve their potential.

Staff:

It is the responsibility of all staff to foster and facilitate this ideal by creating a welcoming environment for all children. They will endeavour to establish an atmosphere within school which promotes tolerance and raises self-esteem, so that all children can develop independence, freedom of choice and a knowledge of their right to take on whatever roles they choose, no matter what their cultural background, gender or ability and prepare them for life in a society which reflects and values cultural and ethnic variety.

We will be proactive to ensure that we meet our goal of meeting the differing needs of all of our children.

We will encourage our children to show respect for the way other people lead their day to day lives by emphasising that no cultural group has the monopoly on the 'right' way to live.

We will respect and value all cultures, faiths and traditions by:

- Helping children to learn about and respect cultures other than their own.
- Showing that we value all cultures equally.

- Ensuring that children know about their British culture and its traditions and ways of life, including the law, the government and other national institutions and public services

We will demonstrate our recognition of the individuality of people by:

- Avoiding reference to stereotypes because of one characteristic e.g. colour, sexual orientation, gender, disability stereotyping.
- Looking to the needs of the whole child rather than concentrating on one characteristic.

We will promote self-esteem and self-worth by:

- Ensuring that each child in our care is respected equally and feels pride in him/herself.
- Preventing children being subjected to prejudice.
- Respecting the family and background of our children.
- Using appropriate language.
- Aiming always to get names correct.

We will ensure equal access to opportunities which will enhance the child's welfare and development by:

- Avoiding assumptions about any child's potential for development.
- Not stereotyping the role people play in adult life.
- Offering all opportunities to all children both inside and outside the classroom.
- Using role models to illustrate positive images of all in adult life.

We will oppose prejudice and discrimination by:

- Recognising that all children are damaged by prejudice.
- Avoiding damage to self-esteem by discrimination.
- Avoiding children growing up with a distorted view of life and a false picture of the world because they wrongly believe some people are superior to others.
- Challenging any prejudice and discrimination.

We will demonstrate that we value the differences between individuals and groups in society by:

- Encouraging children to appreciate the ways they are different from one another and see differences as good, not something to tease and abuse one another about.
- 'Giving children accurate information about 'differences' in order to promote understanding and avoid prejudice.

We will ensure that all our monitoring and evaluating procedures are used effectively to identify any child or groups of pupils who are not progressing as they should. Appropriate action must be taken if this is not the case.

Success Criteria:

Equal opportunity and the effectiveness of inclusive practices that promote and value diversity and difference will be monitored and evaluated in the following areas to identify the need for greater focus

- Examination results
- Playground/classroom interaction
- Displays in school - Learning environment review
- Perceptions of parents/carers and pupils e.g. through questionnaires, Parents' Forum, Learning Conferences and the Learning Council.
- Teaching styles and differentiated work/activities, through scrutiny of planning and work
- Use of resources
- Teacher assessment and value added information
- Classroom observations of the quality of teaching and learning - every child a learner every lesson
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Attendance
- Reports of any incidents of discrimination
- Monitoring of playtime/ break time behaviour

The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed. Any child, parent/carers or member of staff who considers that there has been a breach of this policy should inform the Head

Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher who will investigate the matter and take action, as appropriate.

This policy was created in May 2016 and was reviewed in June 2019.

Linked Policies:

Safeguarding policy

Admissions policy

Pupil Premium policy

SEND policy

Home-school agreement

Learning and Teaching policy