



Barlaston C.E. (VC) First School

“Let Your Light Shine”

Equal Opportunities Policy

Our Mission Statement

“This school is a place of learning, friendship and fun, in a context of Christian values and ethos.

Where each person is uniquely valued and their gifts and potential are nurtured and developed”

Equality Statement

The school is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Dyslexia Statement

To ensure that children on the dyslexic spectrum have equal opportunities and that their diverse strengths are celebrated and built on.

Safeguarding Statement

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Introduction

As a church school, we live by our ethos of “Let Your Light Shine” taken from the book of Matthew 5:16. We believe through our Christian values that all of us are unique and special. As a result of this, we believe that all children are equal and deserve the best education we can possibly provide, each and every one.

We do not discriminate against staff or pupils on the grounds of their gender, disability, race, religion or belief, nationality, ethnicity or national origins, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity. This is in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty from the Equality Act 2010 and covers both direct and indirect discrimination.

We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school.

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.

We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning.

We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve.

We challenge stereotyping and prejudice whenever it occurs.

We celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and foster good relationships between people of different groups.

We are aware that prejudice and stereotyping is caused by low self-image and ignorance. Through positive educational experiences and support for each individual's point of view, we aim to promote positive social attitudes and respect for all.

Aims and objectives

In our school we aim to tackle discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations across all aspects of school life. We do this by:

- Creating an ethos in which pupils and staff feel valued and secure;
- Building self-esteem and confidence in our pupils, so that they can then use these qualities to influence their own relationships with others;
- Having consistent expectations of pupils and their learning;
- Removing or minimizing barriers to learning, so that all pupils can achieve;
- Ensuring that our teaching takes into account the learning needs of all pupils through our schemes of work and lesson planning;
- Actively tackling discrimination and promoting racial equality through our School Prospectus, Governors' Annual Report to Parents, newsletters to parents and displays of work;
- Regular consultation with parents/carers and members of the local community, so that they are well informed of our policy and procedures;
- Making clear to our pupils what constitutes aggressive and prejudiced behaviour;
- Identifying clear procedures for dealing quickly with incidents of prejudiced behaviour;
- Making pupils and staff confident to challenge prejudiced and aggressive behaviour.

The role of adults in tackling discrimination

We do not tolerate any forms of discriminatory behaviour including direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Should an incident occur, we will act immediately to prevent any repetition of the incident and do all we can to support that person in overcoming any difficulties they may have. Incidents should be logged in the incident file which is kept in the head's office. Incidents could take the form

of physical assault, verbal abuse, damage to a pupil's property or lack of cooperation in a lesson. Any adult witnessing an incident or being informed about an incident must follow these agreed procedures:

- Stop the incident and comfort the pupil who is the victim
- Speak to the child instigating the inappropriate conversation and inform the victim what action has been taken
- If the incident is witnessed by other pupils, tell them why it is wrong
- Report the incident to the headteacher or deputy headteacher and inform him/her of the action taken. This should be logged in the Incident File (kept in the deputy head's office)
- Inform the class teacher(s) of both the victim and the aggressor.
- Inform both sets of parents, as appropriate.

We endeavour to make our school welcoming to all groups. We promote an understanding of different cultures, views & beliefs through the themes studied by the children and reflect this in the displays of work shown around the school. Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for all groups. We ensure that children have opportunities to study a variety of cultures, religions and ways of life.

The role of governors

The governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this policy statement, and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that all members of the school community are treated fairly and with equality.

Recruitment & employment:

- The governing body seeks to ensure that all groups will not be discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school.
- The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities.
- The governing body will, in its annual report, make reference to arrangements for disabled pupils
- The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever background or disability a child may have.
- The governing body ensures that no child in our school is discriminated against. All children have access to the full range of the curriculum and regulations regarding school uniform will be applied equally to boys and girls. If a child's religion or disability affects the school uniform, then the school will deal with each case sensitively and with respect for the child's cultural traditions or physical needs.

The role of the head teacher

It is the head teacher's role to implement the school's equal opportunities and anti discrimination policy and she is supported by the governing body in so doing.

It is the head teacher's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the school policy on equal opportunities, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.

The head teacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this policy, so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.

The head teacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum and promotes respect for other people in all aspects of school life, for example in assemblies and displays shown around the school.

The head teacher will ensure that views on equal opportunities and discrimination by pupils, staff and parents are surveyed on an annual basis. She will take their views into consideration when formulating the School Improvement Plan.

The head teacher regards all incidents of unfair treatment and any discriminatory incidents with due seriousness.

The role of the class teacher

The class teacher ensures that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect. We do not discriminate against any child.

When selecting classroom material, teachers pay due regard to the sensitivities of all members of the class and do not provide material that is racist or sexist in nature. Teachers strive to provide material that gives positive images of ethnic minorities, disabilities & religions and that challenges stereotypical images of minority groups.

When designing schemes of work, we use this policy to guide us in our choice of themes to study, and in how to approach sensitive issues.

All our teachers challenge any incidents of prejudice. We record any serious incidents in the Racist Incident log, and draw them to the attention of the head teacher or deputy safeguarding lead. Teachers support the work of support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any occurrence of discrimination.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the effectiveness of this Equal Opportunities policy. The governing body does this by:

- monitoring the progress of pupils of minority groups and comparing it to the progress made by other pupils in the school;
- monitoring the staff appointment process, so that no one applying for a post at this school is discriminated against;
- requiring the head teacher to report to governors on an annual basis on the effectiveness of this policy;

- taking into serious consideration any complaints regarding equal opportunity issues from parents, staff or pupils

Policy agreed by The Governing Body Oct 2021
Review Oct 22