



Crowland Primary School Equality Scheme

Last updated : October 2020

Governing Body :

Status : Guidance

Index : Equalities

Website : N

Section 1 Mission statement

At Crowland Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Crowland Primary, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Section 2 School Profile and Values

Crowland Primary School is larger than the average-sized primary school. The Early Years Foundation Stage consists of a Nursery, which offers 52 part-time places, and two Reception classes. The school population comprises pupils from a range of minority ethnic backgrounds. The largest groups are from African, Caribbean, Turkish and other White ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is much higher than average. The percentage of pupils who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) currently stands at 41%. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium is 20%; This is additional government funding. It is provided to give additional support to those eligible for free school meals and children who are looked after by the local authority.

Attendance has improved but due to the national pandemic (COVID 19) and home isolation we are experiencing unusually low percentages of attendance. Unauthorised absence has reduced significantly, but the school has a number of students with persistent absence.

The proportion of students with SEN currently stands at 15%. The number of students with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) is 6 and is gradually increasing as the school becomes more popular. EHC Plans are generally for behaviour or specific learning issues.

The school's aims are embodied in Crowland's ethos which sets out to create a positive climate for learning. We will all be kind to each other, have good manners, become life-long learners and contribute to the global community. The aim of the ethos is to ensure for every child to leave Crowland ready for the next stage of their lives.

Section 3. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath 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 our pupils 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 pupils
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Ensure equality of access for all pupils 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 pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning
- Including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors. Admissions to the school are coordinated by the Local Authority admissions team.

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

Section 4 Equal Opportunities for Staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Crowland Primary 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 and ability and in compliance with the law. However, we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing 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 faith or 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

Section 5 Equality and the law

The equality objectives in Section 10 below address our duties under current equality legislation, up to and including the Equality Act 2010.

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

Section 6 Race Equality

This section of the plan reflects the general and specific duties of schools as detailed in The Race Relations Act 1976 and as amended by The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

The General Race Equality Duty 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 equality
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this Plan, on pupils, staff and parents by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these pupils

- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such pupils, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups

Section 7 Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy and Accessibility Strategy.

Definition of disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on 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:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people
- Eliminating discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people
- Taking 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

At Crowland we aim to:

- improve the physical layout of the building and disabled access to the curriculum
- link the priorities of the Disability Access Plan into the School Development Plan.
- increase access to education for students with disabilities
- improve equal opportunities for employees with disabilities including those who may incur temporary disability

Section 8 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 pupils 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

Under our specific duty we will:

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

At Crowland we:

- gather gender monitoring information in relation to attainment commitment, destinations and incidents
- set individual targets for student achievement by gender.
- participated in Haringey's equal pay audit
- monitor employment and responsibility allowance allocations considering the national gender pay gap
- actively address issues around gender violence and domestic violence in relation to students and staff.

Section 9 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 30 April 2007 and they make discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools this means admissions, benefits and services for pupils and treatment of pupils.

We are committed to taking a pro-active approach to preventing all forms of homophobia within the school and will assess the impacts of our policies, functions and procedures on promoting sexual orientation equality as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process.

At Crowland we set out to:

- include realistic images of lesbian, gay, transexual and bisexual people and the contributions they have made to different aspects of the curriculum.
- challenge homophobic bullying, language and stereotypes within the school.
- raise staff and student awareness to the rights of others.

Section 7 - Religion and Belief

Crowland recognises the need to consider the actions outlined by the Equality Act 2006 (Religion & Belief) which requires us to assess the impacts of our policies, functions and procedures have on promoting equality for people based on their religion, belief and non-belief.

At Crowland we set out:

- we believe that life has a spiritual dimension and the school aims to provide support for children who are seeking more understanding of themselves and their moral and spiritual values.
- The school promotes British Values, whilst not promoting any particular belief or spiritual attitude the school sees as its duty the promotion of tolerance to and an understanding of beliefs in general. These beliefs may or may not be codified by a religious adherence.

Section 10 Community cohesion

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

At Crowland:

- We strongly promote a positive inclusive Crowland ethos

- Aim to promote a sense of shared values.
- Develop an understanding in children that they all have a responsibility to their shared future.
- Emphasise mutual respect and honesty between different groups including children and teachers.
- Through the curriculum, we make visible to the whole school community the necessity of fairness and trust.
- We extend our activities into the community in numerous ways. For instance, running a successful holiday

Section 11 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, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from parent questionnaires and parents' evening
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET
- Feedback from the school council, PSHE lessons, whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school (PASS)
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans/Personalised Provision Maps, mentoring and support
- Feedback at Governing body meetings

Section 12 Roles and Responsibilities

The role of 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 pupils, 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 for parents, carers and pupils.
 - 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 (or senior leader responsible for Equalities)

- It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's Equality Plan and s/he is supported by the governing body in doing so
- It is the headteacher's 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 appointments 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 incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness

The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- All staff will ensure that all pupils 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 ancillary or support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents

Section 13 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 pupil's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher / headteacher where necessary. 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 e.g. 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 pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.

Section 14 Review of progress and impact of scheme

The Plan has been agreed by our Governing Body. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with legislative requirements, we will review progress against our Equality Plan annually and review the entire plan and accompanying action plan on a three-year cycle.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupil progress. As part of this process, we regularly monitor achievement by ethnicity, gender and disability, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress, and take appropriate action to address any gaps.

Section 15 Publishing the plan

In order to meet the statutory requirements to publish a Disability Equality Scheme and Gender Equality Scheme, we will:

- Publish our plan on the school website
- Raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications
- Make sure hard copies are available
