

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION POLICY



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EQUALITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

1 Mission Statement

At Oakdene 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 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 Oakdene Primary School we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

2. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

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
- At Oakdene Primary School we will actively challenge children, staff or parents who express opinions that are contrary to fundamental British values. Staff regularly review the curriculum to ensure that it promotes

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the areas above. It also ensures that pupils are taught about key events and figures in history. Events during the year celebrate culturally diverse occasions and memorable events taking place in the country.

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 Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy. 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 Oakdene 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.

Employer duties

As an employer, we ensure that we are always mindful that there is no discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and we 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 always considered 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.
- Senior Leadership Team to promote equal opportunities within team.

4. Equality and the law

The equality objectives address our duties under current equality legislation, up to and including the Equality Act 2010.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

4a. 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.

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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:

- Assess the impact of our policies on pupils, staff and parents/carers 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/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 and the Accessibility Policy.

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". However, 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.

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Under our specific duty we will:

- Hold annual equality training with all staff which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme. Through this we will identify our disability equality goals and actions to meet them.

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 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:

- Hold annual equality training which covers the requirements for a Gender Equality Scheme. Through this forum we will identify our gender equality goals and set actions to meet them.

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 or 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 all pupils regardless of sexual orientation.

4e. 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 relationships between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

5. Consultation and involvement

It is a requirement that the development of this policy 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 consultation evening.
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET.

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- Feedback from the School Council, PSHE lessons and assemblies.
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education. Plans/Personalised Provision Maps, mentoring and support.
- Feedback at Governing Board meetings.

6. The role of the Executive Headteacher

- It is the Executive Headteacher's role to implement the school's Equality Policy and she is supported by the Governing Board in doing so.
- It is the Executive Headteacher's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Policy, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- The Executive Headteacher ensures that all appointment panels give due regard to this policy, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.
- The Executive 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 Executive 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:

- All staff will ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's Equality Policy.
- 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 Executive 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 pupil's individual circumstances. Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the Executive Headteacher. All incidents must be officially reported to the Executive Headteacher. Racist incidents are reported to the Governing Board.

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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. School staff should report incidents to the Executive Head Teacher or Head of School. If the concern is regarding the Executive Head Teacher then staff should contact the Chair of Governors Mrs Carole Goodchild.

Pupils should report any incidents to a Duty Bearer. This may be their class teacher, teaching assistant, lunchtime supervisory assistant, Mrs Elsherif or a school leader.

8. Review of progress and impact

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.

This policy has been agreed by our Governing Board. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with

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legislative requirements, we will review progress against our equality actions annually and review the policy on a two-year cycle.

9. Summary

At Oakdene Primary School the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child are important. We follow the necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all our children into account when planning for learning.

We are a Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award School. This framework supports schools across the UK to embed children's human rights in their ethos and culture. The award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children realise their potential.

The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. We believe that this initiative will build on our existing practice. We are confident that this will positively impact on relationships and well-being, leading to even better learning and behaviour.