

Holy Trinity Pewley Down School

ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

(including Race Equality Policy and Gender Equality Policy)

1 Aims & Objectives

- 1.1 We do not discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone, be they members of staff or pupils, on the grounds of their gender, race, colour, religion, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with legislation: The Equality Act (2006) which covers both direct and indirect discrimination.
- 1.2 We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school.
- 1.3 We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.
- 1.4 We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning.
- 1.5 We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve.
- 1.6 We challenge stereotyping and prejudice whenever it occurs.
- 1.7 We celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and show respect for all minority groups.
- 1.8 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.

2 Race Equality

- 2.1 It is the right of all pupils to receive the best education the school can provide, with access to all educational activities organised by the school. We do not tolerate any forms of racism or racist behaviour. Should this policy be breached, we will act immediately to prevent any repetition of the incident.
- 2.2 We endeavour to make our school welcoming to all minority groups. So, for example, we will immediately remove any offensive graffiti that we may find in school. We promote an understanding of different cultures through the topics studied by the children, and we reflect this in the displays of work shown around the school.
- 2.3 Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for minority ethnic groups. So, for example, the art and geography schemes of work give due emphasis to African and Indian traditions and cultures. Activities are planned around the favourite stories of 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Elmer'. In the religious education curriculum topic on religious festivals, the children study the importance of Diwali and Eid.
- 2.4 Should anyone at our school be a victim of racism, we will do all we can to support that person in overcoming any difficulties they may have.

3 Gender Equality

Holy Trinity Pewley down School has due regard for the need to, and works to:

- Eliminate unlawful sexual discrimination
- Eliminate sexual harassment (inclusive of gender dysphoria)
- Promote gender equality

- 3.1** By unlawful sexual discrimination we mean treating one person less favourably than another on grounds of gender.
- 3.2** By sexual harassment we refer to behaviour or remarks based on a person's gender, perceived to be unpleasant, threatening, offensive or demeaning to the self esteem of the recipient. We see such behaviour also damaging to the perpetrator (*refer to school's Behaviour/Anti Bullying Policy*)
- 3.3** Our intention in promoting gender equality is to recognise and help overcome those lasting and embedded patterns of advantage and disadvantage which are based on socially ascribed gender stereotypes and assumptions. Through the curriculum the roles and different professions of men and women will be equally promoted through different resources: books, visitors to the school, photographs etc.
- 3.4** We will ensure that staff recruitment, training opportunities and conditions promote gender equality.
- 3.5** Curriculum planning, learning and teaching methods, classroom organisation and assessment procedures, behaviour management and extended school activities take account of the need to promote gender equality.
- 3.6** We will review all our school policies and practices to assess the ways in which they might impact on gender equality.
- 3.7** We will ensure all governors, staff, pupils, parents and others in our school are accountable and understand their responsibilities with regard to preventing discrimination and harassment and promoting gender equality. 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.
- 3.8** Pupils and parents have a proportionate responsibility to understand and act in accordance with the policy, as do visitors to the school.

4. The role of governors

- 4.1** The governing body seeks to ensure that people with disabilities are not 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.
- 4.2** The governing body will, in the School Profile, make reference to arrangements for disabled pupils.
- 4.3** The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever background or disability a child may have.

- 4.4** The governing body ensure that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their sex, religion or race. So, for example, 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 affects the school uniform, then the school will deal with each case sensitively and with respect for the child's cultural traditions. The governing body will receive an annual report on the implementation of the Equality Policy including Race and Gender Equality.

5 The role of the headteacher

- 5.1** It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's equal opportunities and race equality policies and they are supported by the governing body in so doing.
- 5.2** It is the headteacher'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.
- 5.3** The headteacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this policy, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or training opportunities.
- 5.4** The headteacher 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 the assembly, where respect for other people is a regular theme, and in displays shown around the school.
- 5.5** The headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any racist incidents with due seriousness.

6 The role of the class teacher

- 6.4** The class teacher ensures that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect. We do not discriminate against any child.
- 6.5** 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, the disabled, men and women, people of different faiths and that challenges stereotypical images of minority groups.
- 6.6** When designing schemes of work, we use this policy to guide us, both in our choice of topics to study, and in how to approach sensitive issues. So, for example, history topics in our school include examples of the significant contributions women have made to developments in this country's history. In geography topics the teacher attempts to counter stereotypical images of other countries and to show the true diversity of development in different parts of the world.
- 6.7** All our teachers challenge any incidents of prejudice or racism. We record any serious incidents in the school log book, and draw 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 occurrence of discrimination.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.4** It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the effectiveness of this Accessibility and Equal Opportunities policy. The governing body does this by:
- monitoring the progress of pupils of inclusion 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 headteacher 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;
 - monitoring the school behaviour and exclusions policy, so those pupils from minority groups are not unfairly treated.

Reviewed biannually

HOLY TRINITY PEWLEY DOWN INFANT SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

1. The Governing Body is fully committed to the principle of equal opportunities in recruitment and employment and opposes all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination including those on the grounds of:

age	nationality (including citizenship)
colour	race
disability	religion
ethnic or national origin	sex
marital status	

2. The Governing Body aims to treat all employees with dignity and respect and provide a working environment free from discrimination. It will conduct its affairs at all times in a manner which is consistent with this aim.

3. The Governing Body believes that it is in the School's best interests, and those of all who work in it, to ensure that the human resources, talents and skills available throughout the community are considered when employment opportunities arise.

4. To this end, within the framework of the law, the Governing Body is committed to achieving and maintaining, wherever practicable, a workforce which broadly reflects the local community.

5. Every possible step will be taken to ensure that employees and job applicants are treated equally and fairly and that decisions on recruitment, selection, training, promotion, pay and career management are based solely on objective and job related criteria.

6. Criteria for dismissal, including redundancy will be solely those consistent with the provisions of the Governing Body's Disciplinary & Dismissals Procedure and the Employment Stability Policy.

7. The Governing Body will comply both with the spirit as well and the letter of legislation*. The existence of law cannot itself ensure that any policy of non-discrimination will work effectively - it is up to Management, Trade Unions and employees themselves to promote equality of opportunity for everyone. Individual employees, therefore, at all levels are responsible for ensuring that their own conduct, in the exercise of the School's affairs, is consistent with this equal opportunities policy. In particular they must not:

(i) discriminate against colleagues, other employees or job applicants,

or harass them;

- (ii) induce, or attempt to induce, other employees to practice unlawful discrimination;
- (iii) victimise individuals who have made allegations or complaints of discrimination, or provided information about such discrimination.