



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Last review:	January 2021
Frequency of review:	Annual
Next review date:	January 2022
Lead:	Personnel Committee

The Law and Discrimination

Sex Discrimination

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies to both males and females and makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of his or her sex.

Racial Discrimination

The Race Relations Act 1976 defines racial discrimination as discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins.

Disability Discrimination

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, disabled people have a right not to be discriminated against in employment or access to goods or services. A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Equality Act 2010

Aims and objectives

We do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil, on the grounds of their sex, sexuality, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with the Race Relations Act 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 show respect for all minority 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.

Anti-racism

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 a racist incident occur, we will act immediately to prevent any repetition of the incident.

We promote an understanding of different cultures through the topics studied by the children, and we reflect this as appropriate in the displays of work shown around the school.

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. We will also record the incident in a racist behaviour log, kept in the office of the Headteacher.

The role of the 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.

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 within budgetary constraints to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities.

The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever background or disability a child may have.

The governing body ensures 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 role of the Headteacher

It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's equal opportunities and anti-racist policy and she is supported by the governing body in doing so.

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.

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 or training opportunities.

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.

The Headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any racist 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 and that challenges stereotypical images of minority groups.

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 Asia and to show the true diversity of development in different parts of the world.

All our teachers challenge any incidents of prejudice or racism. We record any serious incidents in the racist 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.

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:

- Requiring the school to monitor the progress of pupils of minority groups and to compare 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;
- 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.