



Bromesberrow St. Mary's C of E (V.A.)
Primary School

Equality and Disability Policy
July 2017

Definitions

Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs 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 (12 months+) effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

Race Equality

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 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.

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 Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex
- Promote equality between men and women.

Community cohesion

As a school we have a very strong position in the community and are committed to working together with our community to promote good relations between pupils and their families from different races, faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. This is a requirement of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Our Inclusion Aims

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:

- Continue to improve the ways in which we provide support (pastorally and academically) to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability to ensure equal opportunities and action/assess any gaps; ;
- 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 and provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Ensure teaching and the curriculum approach in the classroom is reflective of all pupils in the school.

Admissions

Bromesberrow St. Mary's is an inclusive school; our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors. The school welcomes all children who can make the most of the opportunities offered and can flourish in its caring environment. The governors and staff are firmly committed to inclusivity and to giving every child the best possible start in life. Treating every child as an individual is important, and pupils with physical disabilities are welcome.

Legal Position

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics). This means that schools cannot discriminate against pupils or treat them less favourably because of their sex (gender), race, disability, religion or belief.

This requires all public organisations, including schools to:

1. Publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty by April 6th 2012

2. Publish Equality objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable by April 6th 2012

As part of this policy, to be responsive to the legal requirements, the school has created an Equality and Disability Action Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

We expect all members of the school community and visitors to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

Governing body

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. Governors annually review the Equality Policy and evaluate the success of the school's Equalities Work taking account of quantitative evidence (e.g. data) and qualitative evidence (e.g. surveys). We will listen to and be responsive to the views, needs and suggestions of our school community.

Head teacher

The Head teacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

Teaching and Support Staff

All teaching and support staff will:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- challenge prejudice and discrimination
- deal fairly and professionally with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect the school's principles, for example, in providing materials that give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability

Equal Opportunities for Staff

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.

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;
- Maintain the highest expectations of success for all pupils
- support different groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially those who may (sometimes temporarily) find aspects of academic learning difficult
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

We will provide training and guidance on Equalities for all staff new to the school as part of the induction procedure. We will go through the principal expectations and duties of the Equality Act at a whole staff meeting at the start of the school year.

Visitors

All visitors to the school, including parents and carers are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy. We will provide guidance and information in school newsletters to enable them to do this.