

**CAVERSHAM PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



Equal Opportunities Policy

Date: January 2017

To be reviewed: January 2019

'An entitlement to learning must be an entitlement
for all pupils'

INTRODUCTION

All pupils at Caversham Primary have an equal right to develop and achieve their potential. Equality of opportunity underpins the school curriculum and the work of the school. Children at Caversham Primary are always treated as individuals with their own abilities, strengths, difficulties, attitudes, backgrounds and experiences.

The Education Reform Act entitles all pupils in school to a National Curriculum, which is balanced and broad based. The National Curriculum requirement includes cross - curricular dimensions such as equal opportunities for boys / girls, multicultural education and special educational needs. Planned opportunities across the curriculum develop children's knowledge and understanding of different beliefs, cultures and needs.

At Caversham Primary we promote an atmosphere of trust and respect among children as well as between teachers and children. Citizenship education programme is about how we treat each other and, more importantly, how we learn to respect one another and ourselves as citizens of the world. It also fosters an understanding of the diversity of cultures and needs that exist in school and in the wider community.

PARENTS:

We will introduce and communicate the equal opportunities policy to parents through the school prospectus, meetings with parents and on parents evenings.

CHILDREN:

It is the right of every child irrespective of race, culture, class, gender, special needs or ability to achieve their full potential. Each child should have equal access to an education, which will enable him / her to utilise their talents to the full and achieve their potential. We must develop children to become sensitive to, and aware of ways in which equality of opportunity is denied and how this might affect them in society.

STAFF:

It is the responsibility of all staff to foster and facilitate this ideal by creating a welcoming environment for all children and adults in the school. They will endeavour to establish an atmosphere within school which effectively reduces prejudice and raises self esteem, so that all children can develop independence, freedom of choice and an understanding of their right to take on whatever roles they choose, no matter what their cultural background, gender or ability.

As a staff we have to remember that we are role models. We must challenge the concept of discrimination based upon differences of race, gender and special needs.

AIMS:

To ensure that:

1. every individual within the school achieves their full potential and has the same opportunities
2. every child is given access to the best possible level of achievement appropriate to age and ability through appropriately differentiated work
3. staff, parents and children are informed and educated, and reminded of the issues to ensure a continuity of approach throughout the school
4. prejudices are challenged and positive attitudes are built and reinforced
5. understanding and mutual respect of all children, regardless of differences, is promoted
6. contributions from various cultures are included, acknowledged and celebrated in the planning and teaching of the full range of National Curriculum subjects, resources and school displays
7. pupils develop an awareness of the unfairness and injustice of stereotyping
8. any form of bullying including verbal, physical and psychological bullying by any group or individual is challenged and addressed
9. high levels of group and individual behaviour are promoted by ensuring that all the school community are informed of school expectations and procedures
10. there is a commitment to minimising all school exclusions by implementing agreed strategies and procedures ensuring that each child is given the opportunity to achieve and succeed
11. absences, racist incidents and bullying incidents are recorded and monitored.

EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES used in school that will carry out these aims are:

- Planning activities and role play experiences to challenge stereotypes to do with age, disability, race and gender.
- Giving all pupils opportunity to talk in class discussions to voice opinion and discuss how they are feeling.
- Encouraging the sharing of experiences - encompassing all equality issues.
- Reviewing and updating resources so that relevant and appropriate messages are presented to the children.
- Providing a differentiated curriculum by developing classroom approaches that cater

for individual differences but which do not make distinctions that have negative effects on children, their learning and development.

- Displays around school promoting positive equality issues.
- Providing an entitlement curriculum, which aims to offer the same balanced curriculum and learning experiences to all.
- Staff on playground duty to identify loners, the assertive group and negative physical contact.
- Children encouraged to think about the exclusion of others and the negative effect it can have.
- Involving children in rule making in the classroom and at a whole school level through the school council.
- Using assembly time and collective worship themes to reinforce equal opportunity issues.
- Using targets and rewards for children to reinforce acceptable behaviour and attitudes.
- Ensuring that all children will have equal access to all resources. Some children will need encouragement / direction in the use of resources.
- Subject leaders to address equality issues within their subject.
- Giving children a voice, through the school council.
- Sharing in various religious celebrations throughout the year.

THE CURRICULUM

All children will have equal access to all aspects of the curriculum and school life. We will need to monitor our practices to achieve this. Children should be given the opportunity:

- to make choices without fear of rejection e.g. in sport, monitor jobs
- to gain self-worth and self-confidence, freeing them to develop a sense of who they are and what they want
- to have equal educational experiences so that they can make appropriate choices from a base of common skills and knowledge.

RESOURCES

- Books, workcards, equipment and other resources will be checked to see that they challenge stereotypes.
- Children will be encouraged to learn to identify and question stereotypes if they are found in existing material.
- Resources such as computers, technology equipment and playground space will be allocated fairly.

HIDDEN CURRICULUM

- Displays will show positive role models and aim to challenge stereotypes.
- Opportunities will be given to discuss and counter prejudices and hidden beliefs.
- The development and sharing of common interests will be encouraged.

Children's individual characteristics and feelings need to be respected and valued.

STAFF TRAINING

Active participation of all school personnel is necessary for a successful policy. Staff meetings will take place as a means of monitoring / evaluating the policy. Also 'raising awareness sessions' will be planned.

All the staff has responsibility for promoting Equal Opportunities.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

Equal Opportunity will be recognised or highlighted in the following areas:

- SATs results
- Playground/classroom interaction
- Displays in school
- Perceptions of Governors and Parents
- Teaching styles
- Differentiated work on offer to parents
- Use of resources
- Teacher assessment

RACIAL EQUALITY (see also Race Equality policy)

CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF WILL TACKLE ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

The main objectives we are working towards are:

- to prepare all children to live and work together, with equality of opportunity as part of a multi-racial world
- to build on the strength of cultural and linguistic diversity
- to raise awareness and enable children to recognise and challenge inequality
- to meet effectively the particular and individual educational needs of all children.

AS CLASSROOM TEACHERS WE WILL:

- a) raise awareness of similarities and differences of individuals and groups
- b) encourage positive role models from the community to support work in the classroom and arrange relevant visits
- c) have high expectations so all children achieve their full potential, as well as encourage a positive self-image
- d) give opportunities for children to express and evaluate their own opinions and to respect the opinions of others
- e) at all times encourage children to challenge stereotypes, prejudices and racism
- f) carefully choose books and materials and create displays that reflect the diversity within school, community and the wider world

- g) audit / monitor their subject ensuring equality issues are addressed
- h) be made aware of the ethnic mix, different religions and home language of children
- i) identify children for EAL support
- j) as a subject leader, ensure there are appropriate equality links

AS A SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM WE WILL:

- celebrate the success of individuals
- ensure all staff, teaching and non-teaching, are informed of the policy
- provide opportunities for children to work with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures in a wide variety of roles including work, domestic and recreational
- monitor extra curricular activities to ensure that children from all cultural groups are encouraged to take part
- carefully monitor data available to school, to ensure all children achieve their full potential

Gender Equality

AS CLASSROOM TEACHERS WE WILL:

- (a) seek to organise the children to work together in mixed groups so they are less likely to develop antagonistic attitudes, e.g. encouraging them to line up in mixed pairs or by surname, keeping the register in alphabetical order
- (b) ensure that areas in the classroom do not become a predominantly male or female domain, e.g. home corner, construction area
- (c) enable children to work in single sex groups if need be, to develop enjoyment and confidence in particular subjects.

AS A SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM WE WILL:

- celebrate the success of individuals
- avoid unnecessary separation of sexes, unless a specific educational purpose is being met
- ensure, as far as possible, that staff positions are not limited to one sex
- ensure all staff, teaching and non-teaching, are informed of the policy
- provide opportunity for girls and boys to see women and men in a wide variety of roles including work, domestic and recreational
- ensure that the discipline policy will be the same for both girls and boys
- make sure extra curricular activities will be available to all children and timetabled to avoid stereotyped classes.

DISABILITY

All children are given the opportunity to recognise and respect individual differences and abilities. We are all unique and therefore have the right to be treated as individuals.

We will endeavour to:

- raise awareness of the varying needs of others
- highlight and celebrate the differences and similarities between each other
- raise awareness of the need for appropriate facilities to be available for people with disabilities, e.g. wheel chair ramps.

This will be achieved through:

- appropriate discussions
- topic links, e.g. work on the body
- visiting speakers
- appropriate resources, e.g. positive images in books/stories/displays
- following the inclusion policy.