

Equal Opportunities Policy
Marlfields Nursery & Primary
Equal Opportunities Policy

1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1 We do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil, on the grounds of their sex, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with the 1976 Race Relations Act as (amended) by the Race Relations Act 2000 and the Commission for Racial Equality May 2002 and 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 in line with the Code of Practice which came in to effect in May 2002.
- 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-esteem 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 Anti-racism

- 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 a racist incident occur, we will act immediately, to prevent any repetition of the incident. For the victim of racism we will do all we can to support that person in overcoming any difficulties they may have.
- 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.

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2.3 Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for minority ethnic groups. So, for example, the history curriculum gives due emphasis to African traditions and cultures in the work that the children do on the Ancient Egyptians. In the religious education curriculum topic on religious festivals, the children study the importance of Diwali to Hindus and the Torah to the Jews.

3 The role of governors

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 The governing body will, in its annual report, make reference to arrangements for disabled pupils.

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

3.5 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.

4 The role of the headteacher

4.1 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 so doing.

4.2 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.

4.3 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 or training opportunities.

4.4 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.

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- .5 The headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any racist incidents with due seriousness. Racist incidents are recorded on the CCC Racial Incident Monitoring Form.

5 The role of the class teacher

- 5.1 The class teacher ensures that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect. We do not discriminate against any child.
- 5.2 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.
- .3 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 made by both men and women in the developments of world history.
- 5.4 All our teachers challenge any incidents of prejudice or racism. These are then drawn 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.

6 Monitoring and review

- .1 It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the effectiveness of this Equal Opportunities policy. The governing body does this by:
- monitoring the progress of pupils of minority 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.

7 Links with other Policies

Attendance Policy
Assessment Policy
Behaviour Management
Bullying Policy
Gifted & talented Policy
M & E Policy

Collective Worship Policy
All Curriculum Policies
EAL Policy
Educational Visits Policy
Inclusion Policy
PM Policy

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Racial Equality policy
T&L Policy

SEN Policy
Every Child Matters Policy

8 Evaluation & Review

January 2009
Agreed
Review January 2011