

BLACK HORSE HILL INFANT SCHOOL



EQUALITY POLICY

28th February 2019

Approved by Committee _____

21st March 2019

Approved by Full Governing Body _____

Signed _____ (Chair)

Signed _____ (Headteacher)

Learning for Life



School Vision

Together, our schools will: -

Nurture and empower our children to become creative, compassionate and confident citizens, in a diverse and ever-changing world.

School Aims

Our school community will: -

- Have high expectations for all
- Inspire a passion for learning
- Provide an enjoyable, yet challenging curriculum
- Develop positive relationships through collaboration
- Create a safe and happy environment

School Values

All our children, staff and parents will share the same core principles of: -

- Respect
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Excellence
- Perseverance
- Friendship
- Motivation and hard work
- Politeness and good manners



Black Horse Hill Infant School Equality Policy

1. CORE PRINCIPLE

We value the individuality of all of our children, staff, parents and carers and are committed to giving them all every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, we believe that no one should be discriminated against and ensure that the nine protected characteristics outlined in the act are adhered to.

These characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

At Black Horse Hill Infant School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of the nine characteristics listed above. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Black Horse Hill Infant School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

2. EQUALITY - POLICY AND PRACTICE

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this policy, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

Teaching and learning

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:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps;
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;
- 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;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Include teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

3. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Black Horse Hill Infant School.

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.

Equality aspects such as age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free from discrimination.

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;
- Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

4. EQUALITY AND THE LAW

There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with legislation from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000), Disability Equality Duty (2005) and Equality Act (2010).

The action plan at the end of this Equality Policy outlines the actions Black Horse Hill Infant School will take to meet the general duties detailed below.

a. Race Equality

This policy reflects 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.

The General Race Equality Duty 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.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare an Equality Policy which includes our written policy for race equality;
- Monitor the impact our policies have on pupils, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups.
- Review and revise this policy every year.

In our school we will:

- strive to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination.
- promote equality of opportunity.
- promote good relations between people of different racial and ethnic groups.

We believe 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 deal with it in accordance with school procedures (see our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies).

We endeavour to make our school welcoming to all. We actively promote the British value, 'Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs' through whole school celebrations of a wide range of religious festivals throughout the year. So, for example, in the curriculum topic on religious festivals, the children learn the importance of Diwali to Hindus and Sikhs. Similarly, during the Islam festival of Ramadan, all children will learn about the festival in their year groups and share their learning in a whole school assembly at the end of the day. Although our Muslim children tend not to fast during Ramadan due to their age, we respect and celebrate the fact that their older siblings and parents will be fasting.

Although the school does not have a room specifically designated as a prayer room, a room is available should a request be made by a child or parent.

Through our RE curriculum we develop in our children an understanding of diverse cultures and our children have a zero tolerance towards prejudice of any kind. Our respect for other cultures is reflected in the displays of pupils' work shown around the school.

b. Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy and Accessibility Plan.

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 effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The DDA 2005 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities;
- Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is "clinically well-recognised", although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse impact on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Legal duties

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005 placed a general duty on schools, requiring them to have due regard for the following when carrying out and delivering services:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- Eliminating discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Policy which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme identifying our disability equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Review and revise this policy every year.

At Black Horse Hill Infant School we are committed to providing an environment that allows disabled children full access to all areas of learning. Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with disabilities. For example, they may give additional time to complete certain activities, or modify teaching materials, or offer alternative activities where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment.

c. 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 and between women and men and transgender people.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

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

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Policy which covers the requirements for a Gender Equality Scheme identifying our gender equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Review and revise this policy every year.

We are committed to all individuals and groups of pupils making the best progress possible in our school.

We plan our curriculum to ensure activities and content meet the needs of all children, regardless of their gender, in line with our mission statement; for **all** children to achieve their potential in an environment of care, courtesy and consideration. In order to do this we:

- i. Ensure that the resources we use do not favour a particular gender and, where possible, challenge gender stereotypes;
- ii. Display work and reward children based on the efforts of the children;
- iii. Plan a themed curriculum which appeals to a wide range of interests and, where opportunities arise, challenge gender stereotypes;
- iv. Adopt a range of teaching strategies which appeal to all learning styles;
- v. Provide a wide range of reading books which appeal to both genders and which do not promote gender stereotypes;
- vi. Teach in a fully inclusive way, seating the children in mixed gender groups and ensuring all children contribute to class discussions and tasks.

d. Sexual Orientation

The Equality Act 2010 made provision for regulations to be introduced to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 came into force on 30 April 2007 and they make discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools this means admissions, benefits and services for pupils and treatment of pupils.

e. Community cohesion

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

5. CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT

It is a requirement that the development of this policy and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the policy:

- Feedback from parent questionnaires, Parents' Evenings, parent governors.
- Input from staff through surveys, staff meetings / INSET;

- Feedback from the School Council, PSHE lessons, whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school;
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans, mentoring and support;
- Feedback at Governing Body meetings.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of governors

- The Governing Body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this policy and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils and responsive to their needs based on race, gender and disability.
- The Governing Body seeks to ensure that people applying for jobs at Black Horse Hill Infant School are not discriminated against and that the nine protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 are adhered to.
- The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities and strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible for parents, carers and pupils.
- The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever a child's socio-economic background, race, gender or disability.
- The governing body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their race, gender, disability or sexual orientation. All children have access to the full curriculum and regulations regarding school uniform are applied equally to boys and girls. If a child's religion has a bearing on 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 (or senior leader responsible for Equalities)

- It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's Equality 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 Equality Policy, 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 and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life.
- The headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness.

The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's Equality Policy.
- All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images. For example, history topics include examples of the significant contributions women have made in this country's history; in geography topics teachers will counter stereotypical images of Africa and Asia and will show the true diversity of development in different parts of the world.
- All staff will challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia and will record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the headteacher.

- Teachers support the work of support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents.

7. TACKLING DISCRIMINATION

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a pupil's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher, Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher as necessary. All incidents are reported to the headteacher and any incidents are reported to the Governing Body on a termly basis.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as:

'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

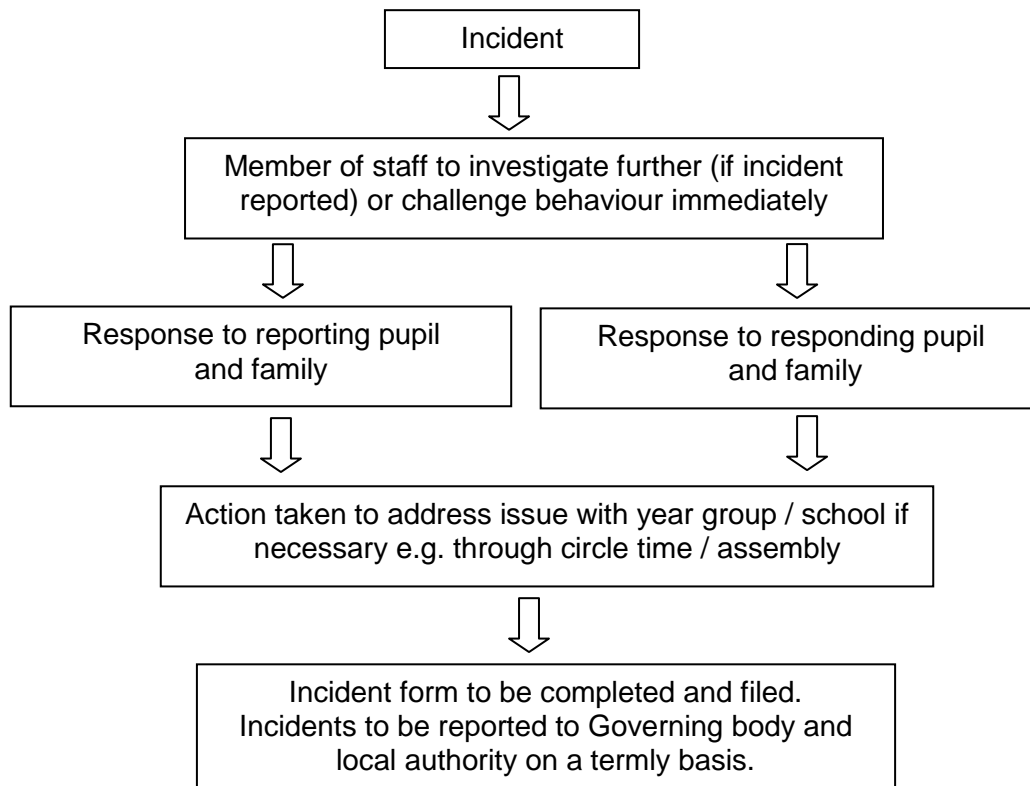
Types of discriminatory incident

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Responding to and reporting incidents

Pupils and staff know how to report incidents and are reminded of the process at regular intervals. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.



8. REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND IMPACT

This Equality Policy has been agreed by our Governing Body. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with legislative requirements, we will review our Equality Policy annually.

To measure its impact, we will:

- monitor achievement by ethnicity, gender and disability to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress;
- monitor the staff appointment process, so that no-one applying for a post at this school is discriminated against;
- require the headteacher to report to governors annually on the effectiveness of this policy;
- take into serious consideration any complaints from parents, staff or pupils regarding equal opportunity;
- monitor the school's behaviour policy, and the numbers of exclusions, to make sure that pupils from minority groups are not unfairly treated.

9. PUBLISHING THE PLAN

This Equality Policy fulfils the statutory requirements under the terms of legislation from the Equality Act 2010. As it is a public document, the school governors publish it by:

Raising awareness of the policy through the School Council, PSHE lessons, school newsletter, staff meetings and other communications;

Keeping a copy in staff induction files, the headteacher's office and the school office ensuring that hard copies are available on request;

Making the plan available on the school's website.

10. ACTION PLAN

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
All	Publish on the school website and promote the Equality Policy through the school newsletter/ letter informing parents, School Council, Governors and staff meetings.	Via parent, staff and children surveys. School Council meetings. Staff and Governors' meetings. Information sent to parents.	Headteacher	At point of agreement and then annually.	Staff apply the principles of the Equality Policy and use them when planning lessons, creating class room displays. Parents are aware of the Equality Policy.
All	Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.	Achievement data analysed by race, gender and disability	Headteacher/SLT	Annually in September/ October	Analysis of teacher assessments / annual data demonstrates the gap is narrowing for equality groups.
All	Ensure that the curriculum promotes role models and heroes that young people positively identify with, which reflects the school's diversity in terms of race, gender and disability.	Increase in pupils' participation, confidence and achievement levels	Headteacher (assemblies) and teachers (lesson planning)	September 2017	Increase in participation and confidence of targeted groups.
All	Ensure that displays in classrooms and corridors promote diversity in terms of race, gender and ethnicity.	Increase in pupil participation, confidence and positive identity – monitor through PSHE & RE.	Class based staff / SLT	September 2017	Diversity reflected in school displays across all year groups.
All	Ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school e.g. through involvement in the School Councils, Circle Time sessions and Celebration Assemblies.	Representation monitored by race, gender, disability. Records of activities/events.	Headteacher /	September 2017	Diversity in Council membership.
Race Equality Duty	Identify, respond and report racist incidents as outlined in the policy. Report the figures to the Governing Body on a termly basis.	The Headteacher / Governing Body will use the data to assess the impact of the school's response to incidents i.e. have whole school / year group	Headteacher / Governing Body	Reporting termly to Governors	Teaching staff are aware of and respond to racist incidents. Consistent nil reporting is

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
		approaches led to a decrease in incidents, can repeat perpetrators be identified, are pupils and parents satisfied with the response?			challenged by the Governing Body.
Gender Equality Duty	Encourage boys and girls to take up extra-curricular activities.	Monitoring of the gender attendance at clubs through the attendance registers.	PE Leader	September 2017	Balance of girls and boys attending clubs.
Community Cohesion	Celebrate the cultural diversity within our school, in terms of race, gender and disability, through our displays. Also, promote role models and heroes that all children can positively identify with.	Raised children's awareness about other cultures and successful people within them.	Headteacher, teachers.	September 2017	Increased participation and confidence. All children feeling valued and proud.
Community Cohesion	Celebrate cultural events throughout the year to increase pupil awareness and understanding of different communities and cultures. Examples are Divali, Chinese New Year, Holi, Hannukah, Christmas and Easter.	RE activities in class. Whole school assemblies to celebrate the main world religions.	Headteacher, Teaching staff	September 2017	Increased awareness of different communities shown in RE lessons and assemblies.