

Fakenham Infant and Nursery School

School Single Equalities Policy



Signed:

Headteacher:

Date of next review: Sept 2019

Signed:

Chair of Governors:

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff and Governors to promote equality. This involves tackling the barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes so that there is equality of access and the diversity within the school community is celebrated and valued.

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth. At Fakenham Infant and Nursery school, equality is a key principle for treating all people the same irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs/faith tradition, sexual orientation, age or any other of the protected characteristics (Single Equalities Act 2010).

This policy has been drawn up as a result of discussion and has been shared with the whole school community via our school website.

Monitoring and Review

The staff member responsible for co-ordinating the monitoring and evaluation is Jo Barker. S/he will be responsible for:

- Providing updates on equalities legislation and the school's responsibilities in this regard;
- Working closely with the governor responsible for this area who is Yvonne Langley.
- Supporting positively the evaluation activities that monitor the impact and success of the policy on pupils from different groups, e.g SEND, Children in Care, Minority Ethnic including Traveller and EAL pupils and Free School Meals, in the following recommended areas:
 - Pupils' progress and attainment
 - Learning and teaching
 - Behaviour discipline and exclusions
 - Attendance
 - Admissions
 - Incidents of prejudice related bullying and all forms of bullying
 - Parental involvement
 - Participation in extra-curricular and extended school activities
 - Staff recruitment and retention
 - Visits and visitors

Policy Commitments

Promoting Equality: Curriculum

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed. To achieve this we will ensure:

- Curriculum planning reflects a commitment to equality;
- The curriculum prepares pupils for life in a diverse society and uses opportunities to reflect the background and experience of pupils and families in the school;
- There will be opportunities in the curriculum to explore concepts and issues related to identity and equality;
- The promotion of attitudes and values that celebrate and respect diversity and challenge discriminatory behaviour and language wherever it occurs;
- The use of images and materials which positively reflect a range of cultures, identities and lifestyles.

Promoting Equality: Achievement

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, social background and sexual orientation. To secure the best possible outcomes we recognise that:

- Adults in the school will be expected to provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity;
- It is important to identify the particular needs of individuals and groups within the school and to use targeted interventions to narrow gaps in achievement;
- A range of teaching methods is used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils.
- All pupils are actively encouraged to engage fully in their own learning.

Promoting Equality: The ethos and culture of the school

- At Fakenham Infant and Nursery School, we are aware that those involved in the leadership of the school community are instrumental in demonstrating mutual respect between all members of the school community;
- We strive to achieve a feeling of openness and tolerance which welcomes everyone to the school;
- The children are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect;
- The displays around the school reflect diversity across all aspects of equality and are frequently monitored;
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure access for pupils, staff and visitors (including parents) with disabilities (this not only includes physical access, but takes account wider access to school information and activities);
- Provision is made to cater for the cultural, moral and spiritual needs of all children through planning of Thinking Times, classroom based and off-site activities;

- Pupils' views are actively encouraged and respected. Pupils are given an effective voice for example, through advocacy, the School Council, pupil perception surveys and there are regular opportunities to engage with pupils about their learning and the life of the school;
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of pupils feel welcomed and included.

Promoting Equality: Staff Recruitment and Professional Development

- All posts are advertised formally and open to the widest pool of applicants;
- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do avoid discrimination to ensure equality of opportunity.
- Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds;
- Equalities policy and practice is covered in all staff inductions;
- All supply staff and contractors are made aware of the equalities policy and practice;
- Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and the impact of policies are kept under regular review.

Promoting Equality: Countering and Challenging Harassment and Bullying

- The school counters and challenges all types of discriminatory behaviour and this is made clear to staff, pupils, parents and governors;
- The school has a clear, agreed procedure for dealing with prejudice related bullying incidents and the Headteacher is responsible for recording and monitoring incidents;
- The school reports to Governors, parents and LA at least on an annual basis the number of prejudice related incidents recorded in the school. This is included in the Headteacher's report.

Promoting Equality: Partnerships with Parents/Carers and the Wider Community

Fakenham Infant and Nursery School aims to work in partnership with parents/carers. We:

- Take action to ensure all parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the life of the school;
- Maintain good channels of communication, e.g. through parent forums, to ensure parents' views are captured to inform practice;
- Encourage members of the local community to join in school activities and celebrations;
- Ensure that the parents/carers of newly arrived pupils e.g. EAL, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller or pupils with disabilities are made to feel welcome.

Responsibility for the Policy

In our school, all members of the school community have a responsibility for promoting equalities.

The Governing Body has responsibility for ensuring that:

- The school complies with all equalities legislation relevant to the school community;
- The school's equalities policy is maintained and updated regularly; and that equality schemes are easily identifiable (these may be included within the School Improvement Plan, the school's Accessibility Plan or may be stand alone documents);
- The actions, procedures and strategies related to the policy are implemented;
- The designated Equalities Governor will have an overview, on behalf of the governing body, on all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy and ensure that appropriate action is taken in relation to these incidents.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership team has responsibility for:

- In partnership with the Governing body, providing leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- Overseeing the implementation of the equality policy and schemes;
- Co-ordinating the activities related to equality and evaluating impact;
- Ensuring that all who enter the school are aware of, and comply with, the equalities policy;
- Ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given relevant training and support;
- Taking appropriate action in response to any prejudice-related incidents.

All school staff have responsibility for:

- The implementation of the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- Dealing with incidents of discrimination and knowing how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping;
- Ensuring they do not discriminate on grounds of ethnicity and culture, disability, sexual orientation or other groups vulnerable to discrimination.
- Keeping up to date with equalities legislation.

Measuring the Impact of this Policy

The equalities policy and all other relevant policies will be evaluated and monitored for their equality impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. The main findings from equality impact assessments will be published for the school community.

Action Plan

Equality Objective No: 1 – Ensuring all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given relevant training and support.		
Governor responsible:		
Outcomes:		Measured by:
All staff understand their responsibilities, are aware of and comply with the equalities policy.		Staff feedback and questionnaire
Activity	Lead	Progress Milestones
Organise relevant training for all staff. Ensure policy is shared, using signatures to record receipt.	Deputy Headteacher	Training to be organised by the end of Autumn term 2017.

Equality Objective No: 2 – Ensuring that all that enter the school are aware of and comply with, the equalities policy.		
Governor responsible:		
Outcomes:		Measured by:
Everyone that enters our school will understand how to act in regard of the school's equality expectations.		Check in with volunteers and visitors to see if they are aware of equality expectations.
Activity	Lead	Progress Milestones
Ensure equalities policy is part of induction pack for all staff. Have notices by entrances and signing in point, stating the main aims of the policy.	Deputy Headteacher	Actions to be in place by the end of Autumn 2017.

Equality Objective No: 3 – The use of images, materials and displays which positively reflect a range of cultures, identities and lifestyles.		
Governor responsible:		
Outcomes	Measured by	
The displays around school, the school website and other media will reflect a range of culture, identities and life styles.	Staff and visitor awareness of equality issues and differing life styles. Portfolio of photographed displays to check diversity and range.	
Activity	Lead	Progress Milestones
Development of displays to ensure inclusion of a range of culture, identities and life styles. (Particularly linked to focused/enrichment activity weeks). Inclusion of policies and other media that reflect a range of culture, identities and life styles on the school website and other media platforms.	Deputy Headteacher	Initially by the end of Autumn 2017, then ongoing.