

The Friary School

EQUALITIES POLICY



Introduction

Equality of opportunity at The Friary School is about providing equality and excellence for all in order to promote the highest possible standards of achievement. Equality of opportunity applies to all members of the school community - pupils, staff, governors, parents and community members.

Key Principles

We aim to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across all aspects of school life. We do this by:

- Creating an ethos in which pupils and staff feel valued and secure
- Building self-esteem and confidence in our pupils, so they can use these qualities to achieve their full potential and become rounded citizens of the wider community
- Have consistent expectations of the pupils and their learning
- Removing or minimising barriers to learning, so that all pupils can achieve
- Ensuring that our teaching takes into account the learning needs of all pupils through our curriculum and lesson planning
- Actively tackling discrimination and promoting equality through our curriculum
- Making clear to our pupils what constitutes aggressive and discriminatory behaviour
- Ensuring class and school resources reflect society as a whole
- Has clear procedures for dealing with discriminatory incidents and that these are understood by all
- Ensure all pupils develop mutual respect through the school ethos, teachings and adult example.

These aims are designed to ensure that the school meets the needs of all of its community, taking account of the nine protected characteristics referred to in the Equality Act 2010; race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy, maternity and gender reassignment. It is important to meet the diverse needs of pupils to ensure inclusion for all and that all pupils are prepared for full participation in a multi-ethnic society.

Equality Commitment

The Friary School focuses on maintain equality by:

- Ensuring that all pupils and staff are encouraged and able to achieve to their full potential
- Respecting and valuing differences between people
- Preparing pupils for life in a diverse society
- Acknowledging the existence of discrimination and taking steps to prevent it
- Making the school a place where everyone, irrespective of a protected characteristic, feels welcomed and valued
- Promoting good relations between groups within the school and the wider community
- Ensuring that an inclusive ethos is established and maintained
- Opposing all forms of discrimination and harassment
- Being proactive in tackling and eliminating unlawful discrimination

School Ethos

The Friary School's mission statement focuses on equality from the off; ie - 'High achievement through challenge and support for every learner'.

The school opposes all forms of racism, harassment, prejudice and discrimination.

The school publicly supports diversity and actively promotes good personal and community relations. Diversity is recognised as having a positive role to play within the school.

Staff foster a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust among pupils from all groups.

Clear procedures are in place to ensure that staff deal with forms of bullying and harassment promptly, firmly and consistently. Actions taken are in line with relevant LA policies and guidance such as those for anti-bullying and dealing with racist incidents.

All forms of harassment are recorded, monitored and dealt with in line with relevant school policies.

Pupils, staff and parents are aware of the procedures for dealing with intolerant behaviour and that such behaviour is always unacceptable.

Staff are trained to deal effectively with bullying, discriminatory incidents, harassment and prejudice.

Leadership & Management

The governing body and the school leadership set a clear ethos that reflects the school's commitment to equality for all members of the school community.

The school promotes positive approaches to valuing and respecting diversity.

The school leadership will work in partnership with others to promote equality of opportunity and oppose all forms of oppressive behaviour, prejudice and discrimination.

Governors and staff contribute to policy documents. Parents can request to see policies and have their views taken note of.

Staffing - Recruitment & Professional Development

The school adheres to recruitment and selection procedures that are fair, equal and in line with statutory duties and LA guidelines.

Recruitment and selection panels always include at least one member who is trained in safeguarding in recruitment protocols and are aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and ensure equality good practice through the recruitment and selection process.

Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact

Curriculum

The curriculum builds on pupils' starting points and is differentiated where appropriate to ensure the inclusion of:

- Boys and girls
- Pupils learning English as an additional language
- Pupils from minority ethnic groups
- Pupils who are gifted and talented
- Pupils with special educational needs
- Pupils who are looked after by the local authority

- Pupils who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion

The school monitors and evaluates its effectiveness in providing an appropriate curriculum for pupils of all backgrounds.

All subjects contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

Extra-curricular activities and special events cater for the interests and capabilities of all pupils and take account of parental concerns related to religion and culture.

Teaching & Learning

Teachers ensure that the classroom is an inclusive environment in which pupils feel all their contributions are valued.

All pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum.

Teaching is responsive to pupils' different learning styles and takes account of pupils' cultural backgrounds and linguistic needs.

Teachers take positive steps to include all groups or individuals.

Teaching styles include collaborative learning so that pupils appreciate the value of working together. All pupils are encouraged to question, discuss and collaborate in problem solving tasks.

Teachers encourage pupils to become independent and to take responsibility for their own learning.

Teachers challenge stereotypes and foster pupils' critical awareness and concepts of fairness, enabling them to detect bias and challenge inequalities.

Resources and displays reflect the experience and backgrounds of all pupils and promote diversity.

Assessment, Achievement & Progress

All pupils have the opportunity to achieve their highest standards. Baseline assessment is used appropriately for all pupils. The school ensures that assessment is as free of gender, cultural and social bias as possible, and that assessment methods are valid.

The school monitors and analyses pupil performance by gender, ethnicity, SEN and those entitled to pupil premium and is therefore able to identify groups of pupils where there are patterns of underachievement.

The school ensures that action is taken to counter this.

Staff have high expectations of all pupils and they continually challenge them to extend their learning and achieve higher standards. The school recognises and values all forms of achievement.

Self-assessment provides all pupils with opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning through regular reflection and feedback on progress.

All pupils have full opportunities to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do and therefore, to benefit from assessment that summarises what they have learnt. Information from assessment is used to inform future learning.

Staff use a range of methods and strategies to assess pupil progress.

Behaviour, Discipline & Exclusions

The school expects high standards of behaviour from all pupils.

The school's procedures for disciplining pupils and managing behaviour are fair and applied equally to all.

It is recognised that having a protected characteristic may affect behaviour. The school takes this into account when dealing with incidents of unacceptable behaviour.

All staff operate consistent systems of rewards and discipline as stated within the school's behaviour policy.

Pupils, staff, parents and governors are aware of procedures for dealing with harassment. They know that any language or behaviour that is damaging to any minority group is always unacceptable.

Personal Development & Pastoral Care

Pastoral support takes account of differences, and the experiences and needs of all individuals.

Appropriate support is given to victims of harassment and intolerant behaviour, using the support of external agencies where appropriate. The perpetrators are dealt with in accordance with school policies and provided with relevant support to consider and modify their behaviour.

Admissions & Attendance

The school follows the LA guidelines for all admissions. The admissions process is monitored to ensure that it is administered fairly and consistently to all pupils, so that pupils from particular groups are not disadvantaged.

Comprehensive information about pupils' ethnicity, first language, religion, physical needs, diet etc. is included in all admission forms.

The school and families are aware of rights and responsibilities in relation to pupil attendance and absence is always followed up by appropriate personnel who are aware of community issues.

Provision would be made for leave of absences for religious observance that include staff as well as pupils.

Partnership with Parents & the Community

Progress reports to parents are accessible and appropriate, in order to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to participate in the dialogue.

All parents are encouraged to participate at all levels in the full life of the school.

The school works in partnership with parents and the community to develop positive attitudes to diversity and to address specific incidents.

Meetings for parents are made accessible for all. Parental involvement is monitored to ensure the participation of all groups.

The school's premises and facilities are equally available and accessible for use by all groups within the community.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body and Headteacher will ensure that the school complies with all relevant equalities legislation.

The Governing Body and Headteacher will ensure that the policy and related procedures and strategies are implemented.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff members are aware of their responsibilities under the policy.

Reviewed By	Policies & Procedures Committee	Implementation Date	Sept 2016	Review Date	Sept 2020
--------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------	--------------------	-----------