

Simmondley Primary School Equality Policy

Our vision statement about Equality

Simmondley Primary School seeks to foster warm, welcoming and respectful environments, which allow us to question and challenge discrimination and inequality, resolve conflicts peacefully and work and learn free from harassment and violence.

We recognise that there are similarities and differences between individuals and groups but we will strive to ensure that our differences do not become barriers to participation, access and learning and to create inclusive processes and practices, where the varying needs of individuals and groups are identified and met. We therefore cannot achieve equality for all by treating everyone the same.

We will build on our similarities and seek enrichment from our differences and so promote understanding and learning between and towards others to create cohesive communities.

Legal Duties

As a school we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations between groups

We understand the principles of the act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity.

A protected characteristic under the act covers the groups listed below:

- age (for employees not for service provision)
- disability
- race
- sex (including issues of transgender)
- maternity and pregnancy
- religion and belief
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership (for employees)

In advancing equality of opportunity:

- we aim to remove or minimise the disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics

- we aim to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people
- we encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

We use evaluation and data collection to inform our decision making and assess the impact on equality of our decision making, policies and practices.

We also welcome our duty under the Education Act 2011 to demonstrate how the education we provide meets the needs of the range of learners at the school.

We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

In fulfilling our legal obligations we will:

- recognise and respect diversity
- foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of belonging
- tackle prejudice and promote understanding between people from different groups
- observe good equalities practice, including staff recruitment, retention and development, and procurement
- aim to reduce and remove existing inequalities and barriers
- consult and involve widely
- strive to ensure that the communities within, around and beyond our school will benefit
- follow guidance from Derbyshire Children's and Younger Adults Service HR on equality in recruitment, selection and employment
- use the school's complaints procedure initially to deal with any complaints under the Equality Act 2010, use the Questions Procedure and, for any complaint not resolved internally, use the local authority complaints procedure.

Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

This school is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice related discrimination may fare less well in the education system. We provide both our learners and staff with an awareness of the impact of prejudice in order to reduce the likelihood of any incidents. If incidents occur we address them immediately and report them to the Local Authority using the online reporting system.

Responsibility

We believe that promoting equality is the whole school's responsibility:

The roles and responsibilities within our school community

Our Headteacher will:

- ensure that staff, parents/carers and pupils/students are informed about the Equality Policy
- oversee the effective implementation of the policy
- ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the policy
- develop partnerships with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available
- monitor the policy and report to the Governing Body on the effectiveness of the policy
- ensure that the senior leadership team (SLT) is kept up to date with any development affecting the policy or actions arising from it.

Our governing body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for the Equality Policy
- ensure that any action plans are monitored through a relevant sub-committee
- support the headteacher in implementing any actions necessary □ engage with parents and partner agencies about the policy □ evaluate and review the policy.

Our Senior Leadership Team will:

- have responsibility for supporting other staff in implementing this policy
- provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to the policy
- with the Headteacher, provide advice/support in dealing with any incidents/issues □ assist in implementing reviews of this policy.

Our pupils/students will:

- understand how it relates to them, appropriate to age and ability □ be expected to act in accordance with the policy.

Our parents/carers will:

- have access to the policy through a range of different media appropriate to their requirements
- be encouraged to actively support the policy
- be encouraged to attend any relevant meetings and activities related to the policy
- be informed of any incident related to this policy which could directly affect their child.

Our school staff will:

- be involved in the on-going development of the policy

- be fully aware of the Equality Policy and how it relates to them
- understand that this is a whole school issue and support the Equality Policy □
make known any queries or training requirements.

We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Single Equality Policy by publishing them on the school website.

Breaches

Breaches to this statement will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the Headteacher and governing body.

Monitor and Review

We will review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile at least every four years. Our objectives will sit in our overall School Development Plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Committee in October 2015.

This policy was reviewed by governors January 2017.

Next review January 2019 or before if required.