

# Equalities Policy 2021

Kindness



Innovation



Passion



Imagination



Collaboration



thomas  
fairchild  
community  
school

## **Introduction**

Thomas Fairchild is an inclusive school where we focus on the well-being and progress of every child and where all members of our community are of equal worth.

We believe that the Equality Act provides a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. It also ensures that we continue to tackle issues of disadvantage and underachievement of different groups.

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.

Our approach to equality is based on the following 7 key principles

1. **All learners are of equal value.** *Whether or not they are disabled, whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status, whatever their gender and gender identity, whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background and whatever their sexual orientation.*
2. **We recognize, respect and value difference and understand that diversity is a strength.** *We take account of differences and strive to remove barriers and disadvantages which people may face, in relation to disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, belief or faith and sexual orientation. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.*
3. **We foster positive attitudes and relationships.** *We actively promote positive attitudes and mutual respect between groups and communities different from each other.*
4. **We foster a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.** *We want all members of our school community to feel a sense of belonging within the school and wider community and to feel that they are respected and able to participate fully in school life.*
5. **We observe good equalities practice for our staff.** *We ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in all aspects of their work, including in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development*
6. **We have the highest expectations of all our children.** *We expect that all pupils can make good progress and achieve to their highest potential*
7. **We work to raise standards for all pupils, but especially for the most vulnerable.** *We believe that improving the quality of education for the most vulnerable groups of pupils raises standards across the whole school.*

## Purpose of the policy

*The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics). This means that schools cannot discriminate against pupils or treat them less favourably because of their sex (gender), race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or pregnancy or maternity.*

*Age and marriage and civil partnership are also “protected characteristics” but are not part of the school provisions related to pupils.*

*The Act requires all public organisations, including schools to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and two specific duties*

### **The *Public Sector Equality Duty* or “general duty”**

*This requires all public organisations, including schools to*

- *Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation*
- *Advance equality of opportunity between different groups*
- *Foster good relations between different groups*

### **Two “specific duties”**

*This requires all public organisations, including schools to*

1. *Publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty by April 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.*
2. *Publish Equality objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable by April 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.*

*This policy describes how the school is meeting these statutory duties and is in line with national guidance. It includes information about how the school is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and also provides guidance to staff and outside visitors about our approach to promoting equality.*

Appendix 1 shows the school's Equality Objectives for 2017-2018 in an Equality Action Plan

## Development of the policy

When developing the policy we took account of the DfE guidance on the Equality Act 2010 and also the Ofsted inspection framework (updated August 2016), which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on closing gaps in standards.

## Links to other policies and documentation

Although this policy is the key document for information about our approach to equalities in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act are also included in our school development plan, self-evaluation review, the school prospectus, school website and newsletters.

There are also references in the Behaviour Policy as well as minutes of meetings involving governors, the whole staff, and the senior leadership team and school council.

The Equality Act also applies to schools in their role as employers, and how we comply with this is found in our recruitment policy.

## What we are doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- We take account of equality issues in relation to admissions and exclusions; the way we provide education for our pupils and the way we provide access for pupils to facilities and services
- We are aware of the Reasonable Adjustment duty for disabled pupils – designed to enhance access and participation to the level of non-disabled pupils and stop disabled children being placed at a disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.
- The Executive Headteacher ensures that all appointment panels give due regard to this policy so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or training opportunities.
- We ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones.
- We take seriously the need to consider the equality implications when we develop, adapt and review any policy or procedure and whenever we make significant decisions about the day to day life of the school. We make a record of each specific equality consideration and this is available for review if required.
- We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.
- Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and we do not discriminate against pupils by treating them less favourably on the grounds of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity

## ***Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance***

*The school policy on Behaviour - Rewards, Sanctions and Exclusions - takes full account of the new duties under the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustment for pupils with a disability. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from school for evidence of over-representation of different groups and take action promptly to address concerns.*

## **Addressing prejudice and prejudice-based bullying**

*The school challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality:*

- *prejudices around disability and special educational needs*
- *prejudices around race, religion or belief, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum*
- *prejudices around gender and sexual orientation, including homophobic and transphobic attitudes*

*There is guidance in the staff handbook on how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with. We treat all bullying incidents equally seriously.*

*We keep a record of different prejudice-related incidents and provide a report to the governors about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how we dealt with them. We review this data termly and take action to reduce incidents.*

What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups:

- We know the needs of our school population very well and collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and identify targets to achieve improvements.
- We have procedures, working in partnership with parents and carers, to identify children who have a disability through our pupil admissions meetings
- We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils and use this data to support school improvement. We take action to close any gaps, for example, for those making slow progress in acquiring age-appropriate literacy and number skills.
- We collect, analyse and publish data: on the school population by gender and ethnicity; on the % of pupils identified as having a special educational need and/or disability and by their principal need or disability; by year group – in terms of ethnicity, gender and proficiency in English; on inequalities of outcome and participation, related to ethnicity, gender and disability and proficiency in English.
- We publish an analysis of standards reached by different groups at the end of each key stage and year group;
  - White British
  - Black African
  - Black Caribbean
  - TKC
  - Free School Meals

- Pupil Premium
- Non Pupil Premium
- EAL
- All SEN
- SEN School Action and SEN statement
- Looked after Children
- 
- *We also collect, analyse and use data in relation to attendance and exclusions of different groups.*
- *We use a range of teaching strategies that ensures we meet the needs of all pupils.*
- *We provide support to pupils at risk of underachieving.*
- *We are alert and proactive about the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender, disability and sexuality.*
- *We ensure equality of access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum, removing barriers to participation where necessary.*
- *We have implemented an Accessibility Plan designed to: increase the extent to which pupils with disability can participate in the curriculum; improve the physical environment and; improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.*

## **Positive Action**

*We will take positive and proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils with particular protected characteristics, such as targeted support. The actions will be designed to meet the school's Equality Objectives.*

What we are doing to foster good relations

- *We prepare our pupils for life in a diverse society and ensure that there are activities across the curriculum that promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.*
- *We teach about difference and diversity and the impact of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination through PSHE and citizenship and across the curriculum.*
- *We use materials and resources that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender, sexual identity and disability, avoiding stereotyping.*
- *We promote a whole school ethos and values that challenge prejudice-based discriminatory language, attitudes and behaviour.*
- *We provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.*
- *We include the contribution of different cultures to world history and that promote positive images of people.*

- We provide opportunities for pupils to listen to a range of opinions and empathise with different experiences.
- We promote positive messages about equality and diversity through displays, assemblies, visitors, whole school events e.g. Black History Month, Anti Bullying Week.
- We include Equalities matters in our Newsletters to parents and Carers

**In order to ensure that the work we are doing on equalities meets the needs of the whole school community we:**

- Review relevant feedback from the annual parent questionnaire, parents' evening and/or focus meetings or governors' parent-consultation meeting.
- Secure and analyse responses from staff surveys, staff meetings and training events.
- Review feedback and responses from the children and groups of children, from the school council, PSHE lessons,
- Analyse issues raised in Annual Reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans.
- Ensure that we secure responses and feedback at Governing Body meetings and from the governing body's working groups.

Publishing Equality Objectives (see Equality Action Plan)

*The objectives which we identify represent our school's priorities and are the outcome of a careful review of and analysis of data and other evidence. They also take into account national and local priorities and issues.*

*We evaluate our success in meeting the Public Service Equality Duties by the extent to which we **achieve improved outcomes** for the different groups. We produce Equality Data Analysis which inform our discussions about the Equality Objectives.*

**Our Equality Objectives for 2017-2018 are:**

- To ensure greater clarity amongst staff and governors about their duties in relation to the Equality Act 2010.
- For achievement gaps to continue to be reduced for key groups in school.
- To continue to promote diversity in wider opportunities.

**Monitoring and reviewing objectives**

*We review and update our equality objectives every two years and report annually to the governing body on progress towards achieving them. We involve and consult staff, pupils, governors and parents and carers.*

*We publish an evaluation of the success in meeting these objectives for parents and carers, on the school website.*

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

*We expect all members of the school community and visitors to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.*

## **Governing Body**

*The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. A member of the governing body has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.*

*Every Governing Body committee keeps aspects of the school's commitment to the Equality Duty under review, for example, in terms of standards, curriculum, admissions, exclusions, personnel issues and the school environment.*

## **Executive Headteacher and the Headteachers**

*The Executive Headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.*

*The Headteachers have the day-to-day responsibility for co-coordinating implementation of the policy and for monitoring outcomes. S/he will have expert and informed knowledge of the Equality Act.*

## **Teaching and Support Staff**

*All teaching and support staff will:*

- *promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom*
- *challenge prejudice and discrimination*
- *deal fairly and professionally with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur*
- *plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect the school's principles, for example, in providing materials that give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability*
- *maintain the highest expectations of success for all pupils*
- *support different groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially those who may (sometimes temporarily) find aspects of academic learning difficult*
- *keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.*

*We will provide training and guidance on Equalities for all staff new to the school as part of the induction procedure. We will go through the principal expectations and duties of the Equality Act at a whole staff meeting at the start of the school year.*

## **Visitors**

*All visitors to the school, including parents and carers are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy. We will provide guidance and information in school newsletters to enable them to do this.*

## **Equal Opportunities for Staff**

*This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff. 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.*
- *We are also concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community.*
- *As an employer we strive to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.*
- *We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.*
- *We ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.*

## **Monitoring and reviewing the policy**

We review the information about equalities in the policy annually and make adjustments as appropriate. Our review involves pupils, staff, governors and parents and carers.

# Equality Objectives Plan 2020-21

Objective	Success Criteria	Task	Who	Training	Resources
<p><b>To ensure clarity amongst staff and governors about their duties in relation to the Equality Act 2010.</b></p>	<p>Staff and the Governing Body are familiar with and adhere to the general duties of the Equality Act 2010 and use them when planning lessons, creating classroom displays, decision making and dealing with incidents of harassment.</p>	<p>Provide information and training to clarify responsibilities and suggest ways of using the information to inform lesson planning, classroom displays and decision making. Staff survey to clarify understanding of responsibilities.</p> <p><u>ExHT</u> and the Governing body to use the data of any recorded incidents to assess the impact of the school's response to the incidents i.e. have whole school / year group approaches led to a decrease in incidents, can repeat perpetrators be identified, are pupils and parents satisfied with the response?</p>	SLT	Staff and governor training	<p>Staff meeting time</p> <p>Governor training time</p>
<p><b>For achievement gaps to be reduced for key groups in school.</b></p>	<p>Reduced achievement gaps for pupils entitled to free school meals (pupil premium group) and those for whom English is an additional language, compared with last year.</p>	<p>Monitoring by SLT of each of these groups – lesson observation focus, scrutiny of pupils' work, interviews with pupils. Class teachers to report on progress of these groups half termly.</p> <p>Targeted interventions provided for individual children as appropriate. Link adult with each FSM/PP pupil to keep in touch/raise <u>self esteem</u> etc. All teaching assistants to be fully appraised of these groups and their needs. Encourage FSM/PP children to attend extra-curricular activities before/after school. Invite targeted parents to join family learning sessions. Once half-termly parent consultation meetings for FSM/PP and EAL pupils. SLT to analysis able pupils groups regarding the representation of targeted groups.</p>	SLT	Staff Inset PAR time	Use of leadership time
		Able pupil group monitored by race, gender and disability.			
<p><b>To promote diversity in wider opportunities.</b></p>	<p>Evidence of diverse representation in <u>extra-curricular</u> activities, interventions, lead roles in performances etc.</p>	<p>Encourage all pupils to take the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school e.g. through class assemblies, fund raising activities etc. Pupils to be encouraged to see the importance of providing opportunities to a wide group of their peers. Monitoring of involvement by race, gender, disability.</p>	SLT	Staff training	

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