



Racial Equality Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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Introduction

We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards and do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind.

Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity.

This policy reflects the school's general and specific duties, as detailed in:

- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.
- Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality 2001, issued by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE);
- Preparing a Race Equality Policy for Schools (CRE 2002).

The following publications were helpful:

- CRE's handbook 'Learning for All: Standards for Racial Equality in Schools' (2000);
- The Runnymede Trust 'The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain: The Parekh Report' (2000);
- The Macpherson Report (1999) on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Aims and objectives

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 are required to:

- prepare a written policy on racial equality;
- monitor and assess the impact of all our policies, including this one, on pupils, staff, and parents of different racial groups, paying particular attention to the impact of these policies on pupils' attainment levels.

Principles

These three principles underpin all of our procedures and practice:

- Every pupil should have the opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards.

- Every pupil should develop a sense of personal and cultural identity, with a confidence and openness to change that allow them to be receptive and respectful with regards to other people's identities.
- Every pupil should develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need in order to participate not only in Britain's multi-ethnic society, but also in the wider context of an interdependent world.

Responsibilities

In our school, we all take responsibility for promoting race equality, but the following have specific responsibilities:

The Local Governing Body (LGB) will seek to ensure that the school complies with race relations legislation, and that this policy and its procedures are implemented. The LGB receive a termly report update through the Headteacher's report and the CEO reports to Trustees.

The Headteacher, too, along with the Local Governing Body, will see that the policy and its procedures are implemented, that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that staff receive appropriate training and support in putting the policy into practice, and that disciplinary action is taken against staff or pupils who discriminate racially.

All staff will deal with racist incidents in accordance with school procedures and will know how to challenge racial bias and stereotyping. They will not discriminate on racial grounds.

Teaching staff will offer full curriculum access to pupils from all racial groups and will promote diversity and racial equality.

Visitors and contractors will comply with the school's race equality policy.

Tackling racial harassment

The definition of institutional racism is 'the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their culture, colour or ethnic origin. It can be seen in processes, attitudes and behaviour that amount to discrimination, through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, or thoughtless and racist stereotyping, all of which disadvantage minority groups.

A racist incident is 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'. Any incident of racial harassment is unacceptable in our school. Incidents could take the form of physical assault, verbal abuse, damage to personal property, or lack of cooperation in a lesson, on account of another pupil's ethnicity.

Minority ethnic groups include gypsy travellers, refugees, asylum-seekers and, in certain contexts, white Europeans.

All racist incidents are investigated by the headteacher. Incidents of racism are recorded in the headteacher reports to the Local Governing Body, the Trustees, and the LA on the number of incidents, the prevailing trends, and how the issues have been dealt with.

All pupils, parents and staff are aware of our procedures for dealing with racist incidents, and all staff are trained to deal firmly, consistently, and effectively with racist incidents.

Victims of racism and racial harassment will be supported by the school and, where appropriate, we will seek the support of external agencies.

Attainment, progress, and assessment

The school has high expectations of all pupils and is dedicated to helping all pupils to reach the highest possible standards of achievement. Ethnic monitoring is essential, to ensure that minority ethnic groups are not being disadvantaged. Evaluation of data will result in action being taken to address underperformance by any group.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning, and use this information to track pupils' progress, as they move through the school. As part of this process, we monitor attainment and progress by ethnicity.

School performance information is evaluated in comparison with national data and LA data, to identify any patterns of underachievement. The Local Governing Body receives regular updates on information concerning pupils' performance.

In addition to attainment and progress, we also monitor the following records, checking them for signs of discrimination: attendance, admissions, exclusions, racist incidents, the SEN register, and applications of the behaviour policy.

Teaching and learning

We aim to provide all of our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, teaching and learning will:

- ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a society of diverse cultures.
- use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, learning styles and linguistic needs.
- challenge racial discrimination and stereotyping and teach pupils how to recognise bias.
- provide opportunities for pupils to maintain links with their own culture, while at the same time appreciating cultural diversity.
- employ a range of styles, including collaborative learning, so that pupils can learn to value working together.
- provide educational visits and extra-curricular activities that reflect all groupings among our pupils.
- take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets.

Managing pupil behaviour

The school makes sure that procedures for disciplining pupils and for managing behaviour are fair and just to pupils from all racial groups. All staff operate the school's behaviour policy of rewards and sanctions consistently. Staff are aware that cultural background can affect behaviour and take this into account when dealing with unacceptable behaviour. Exclusions and the use of rewards and sanctions are monitored by ethnicity, to identify any patterns.

Partnerships

All parents are encouraged to take a full part in the life of the school. The school works with parents and the community to develop positive attitudes towards diversity and to address specific incidents.

We consult with staff, parents, and pupils about their opinions on the impact of our policies. Parents receive an annual questionnaire about the school, and the school acts on the feedback.

Staff recruitment and professional development (see also

Continuing Professional Development)

All members of staff are entitled to appropriate training, so that they can play their full part in ensuring that the school promotes racial equality. Their training is linked to priorities within the school's strategic plan, and funding for this professional development is identified.

Induction for new staff includes the area of racial equality, and members of the Local Governing Body have identified their own training needs in relation to this.

Local Governing Body members and members of staff involved in the selection and appointment of other staff will ensure that the principles and practices of racial equality are adhered to.

Monitoring and review

We have a rolling programme of policy review, and this policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if necessary. As policies are reviewed and amended, we check that the principles listed above are properly considered and are embedded into both policy and practice. Local Governing Body members will ensure that due regard is given to the promotion of racial equality within each policy