

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Knotty Ash Primary School



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Introduction

Knotty Ash Primary School, Nursery and Deaf Resource Base is committed to valuing diversity by providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families. We also value our staff and are committed to good employment practice.

Knotty Ash Primary seeks to ensure that no member of the school community, or any person through their contact with the school, will receive less than favourable treatment on the grounds of a protected characteristic. These include: race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, responsibility for children or other dependents, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, trade union or political activities, socio-economic background, living situation, or spent convictions (in line with safeguarding guidelines).

In this, we include all members of the extended school community – pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and others from our local community. Partners, contractors and other visitors to the school are also expected to adhere to this policy.

Legal Framework

In putting together this Single Equality Scheme in the form of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, we are responding to the introduction of the Equality Act 2010. This replaces all previous policies and legislation relating to Race Equality, Gender Equality and Disability Equality.

This policy has been devised to enable Knotty Ash Primary School to meet its general duty in:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Fostering good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not

We do this by:

- Providing a secure environment in which all of our children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued
- Including and valuing the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity
- Providing positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and people with disabilities
- Reviewing our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity
- Making inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of Knotty Ash Primary School

Aim

Equality and Diversity is about making a difference to the lives of the people we serve, treating all people with dignity and respect, and recognising the value of each individual. We are committed to ensuring that our services meet the varied and individual needs of children and young people in our school, that our employment practices are fair and promote equality and that we respect the wide variety of lifestyles and cultures, locally and nationally.

We aim to prepare children and young people for living within a diverse society with increasing global connections and controversial issues.

We work hard to build strong and trusting relationships with our pupils and their families in order to harness their engagement and enjoyment in all aspects of school life. We recognise that pupils and family members may experience a range of different needs during different times in their lives and we endeavour to meet these needs by working in close partnership with relevant agencies.

Our Mission Statement and Aims

Knotty Ash is a school where we want every child to have the opportunity to shine. We aim to build tolerance, self-confidence and a love of learning. Our small, friendly school is fully inclusive, accepting and celebrating children of all abilities, learning needs, backgrounds and beliefs. We are extremely lucky to have the Deaf Resource Base and every child from Nursery to y6 learns British Sign Language (BSL). Communication, the expressive arts, engagement in learning and discovery are all key features of our family school where we nurture and develop each child as a unique and valued individual.

Our aims are:

- Provide a secure, safe and happy environment where children of all abilities can reach their full potential;
- Instil a love of learning through an engaging curriculum delivered by teachers who love teaching!
- Develop tolerance, respect, resilience and self-confidence;
- Provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities including clubs, trips and visitors to inspire children beyond the curriculum;
- Nurture happy, responsible global citizens ready for the next stage in their education.

Guiding Principles

The following principles underpin our practice at Knotty Ash Primary School and guide our policy and practice in respect of equality, diversity and inclusion:

1. All learners are of equal value

All learners and potential learners are of equal value and benefit equally from school policies, practices and programmes, whatever their ability, disability, ethnicity or national identity, religious background, gender or cultural identity.

2. Relevant differences are recognized

Treating people equally can mean treating them differently. Policies, practices and programmes do not discriminate, but may be differentiated to take account of differences of life experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantage which people may face, in relation to:

- Disability – so that reasonable adjustments are made
- Ethnicity – so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised
- Gender – so that the different needs and experiences of girls and boys, and women and men, are recognised
- Religion, belief or faith background
- Sexual identity

3. We foster positive attitudes, relationships and a shared sense of belonging

Policies and programmes promote:

- Positive attitudes towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people
- Positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents
- Mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, and women and men, and an absence of sexual and homophobic harassment.

4. Staff recruitment, retention and development

Steps are taken to positively promote equality, especially where there is evidence of inequality and to ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in recruitment, professional development and promotion:

- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status
- Whatever their gender and sexual identity, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity

5. Reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of policies and programmes, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by addressing, reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist between:

- Disabled and non-disabled people
- People of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Girls and boys, women and men

6. Policy and practice is underpinned by British Values and benefits society

Policies and programmes benefit society as a whole, locally, nationally and internationally, by fostering greater cohesion and greater participation in public life for:

- Disabled people as well as non-disabled
- People of a wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Both women and men, girls and boys
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

Implementation

1. Admissions

- Knotty Ash welcomes applications from the whole community
- We base our admissions policy on a fair system (refer to Admissions Policy)
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our school, on the basis of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, responsibility for children or other dependents, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, political activities, socio-economic background, living situation, being a member of a travelling community or an asylum seeker or having spent convictions
- We have an Equal Opportunities Policy that is accessible to all

- We strongly discourage discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents/carers and will take appropriate action
- Displaying of openly racist insignia, distribution of racist material, name-calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the school premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our school because of any disability
- We have ensured that individual profiles are developed for children and parents/carers with disabilities so that they can participate successfully in the activities offered by Knotty Ash School and in the curriculum offered
- We try to reflect the diversity of members of our society in all our publicity and promotional materials
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether written or spoken.

2. School Curriculum

The curriculum offered at Knotty Ash School encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves.

Equality and diversity is embedded as far as possible in all areas of the curriculum and pupils are given opportunities to explore prejudice and discrimination, and to positively explore difference in relation to race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender, disability.

We do this by:

- Designing our own Inclusive Curriculum to encourage the engagement and inclusion of all our pupils
- Incorporating the themes of the 'Oxfam Global Curriculum'
- Making children feel valued and good about themselves through the curriculum, PSHE and P4C programme
- Valuing difference and diversity through the work of our 'Communities and Diversity' curriculum team
- Ensuring that children have equal access to learning through adult support, signed support, differentiation and varied opportunities for children's recording of their understanding
- Recognising the different learning styles of the children, making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities
- Regularly reviewing the teaching within each subject area as well as with the resources that are available to support this so that both the diversity of the school, local community and wider society as a whole are represented in this
- Avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials
- Celebrating a wide variety of festivals
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable
- Ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special education needs and children with disabilities
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language, including our deaf pupils, as far as possible have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning
- Providing specialist teaching and support to our deaf pupils in the Deaf Resource Base
- Collecting and collating data with regard to the attainment and achievement of all pupils in order to inform the planning and provision of support to individuals and groups of pupils

3. Valuing diversity in families

- We welcome the diversity of family lifestyles and work with all families
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life through SEAL
- We encourage parents/carers to take part in the life of Knotty Ash Primary School and to contribute fully
- For families who speak languages in addition to English and for our families who communicate in BSL, we develop systems to ensure their full inclusion
- We offer a flexible payment system for families of differing means and offer information regarding sources of financial support

4. Food and dietary needs

- We work in partnership with Parents / Carers to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met as far as is reasonably possible
- We help children to learn about a range of food, and of cultural approaches to mealtimes and eating, and to respect the differences among them

5. Staff training

All staff at Knotty Ash Primary School have their professional development needs met in relation to this agenda. This includes staff across all sections (teaching, support, mid-days, office staff, etc) and support that will be provided to meet their training needs as outlined in our School Development Plan. New and temporary staff will be made aware of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and other practices in relation to this.

- We seek out training opportunities for staff and volunteers to enable them to develop anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish
- We review our practices annually to ensure that we are fully implementing our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

All who are associated with Knotty Ash Primary School, Nursery and Deaf Resource Base have a responsibility for promoting equality and inclusion, and avoiding unfair discrimination.

School Governors

- Provide leadership and drive for the development and regular review of the school's policies
- Provide leadership and ensure the accountability of the Headteacher and senior leadership for the communication and implementation of school policies
- Highlight good practice and promote it throughout the school and wider community
- Provide appropriate role models for staff, pupils, parents/carers and all other stakeholders
- Congratulate examples of good practice from the school
- Ensure a consistent response to incidents e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out the letter and the spirit of the statutory duties (and ensuring the provision of 'returns' to the local authority)
- Making sure the school complies with all current equality legislation
- Making sure this policy and its procedures are followed

Executive Headteacher / Head of School

- Initiate and oversee the development and regular review of equality policies and procedures
- Consult pupils, staff and stakeholders in the development and review of the policies
- Ensure the effective communication of the policies to all pupils, staff and stakeholders

- Ensure that staff are trained as necessary to carry out the policies
- Oversee the effective implementation of the policies
- Hold subject leaders accountable for effective policy implementation
- Provide appropriate role models for all staff and pupils
- Provide opportunities and mechanisms for the sharing of good practice
- Take appropriate action in cases of harassment and discrimination and ensure a consistent response to incidents e.g. bullying case, homophobic and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out its statutory duties effectively

Staff

- Proactively following this policy and any associated guidelines
- Providing role models for pupils through their own actions
- Dealing with racist, sexist and homophobic incidents, and recognising and tackling other forms of bias and stereotyping
- Promoting equality and good community relations and avoiding discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic circumstances
- Keeping up to date with the law on discrimination and taking training and learning opportunities offered to them

Pupils

- Treating others kindly and fairly without prejudice, discrimination or harassment
- Attending and engaging in their own learning as well as helping other pupils to learn
- Telling staff about any prejudiced related incidents that occur

Parents/carers

- Supporting our school in its implementation of this policy
- Following the school policy through their own behaviour
- Ensuring their children attend and engage in the learning
- Telling staff about any prejudice related incidents that occur

Visitors and Contractors

- Knowing and following our policy

Breaches of the Policy

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the Head Teacher and Governing Body. Anyone wishing to make a complaint will be advised to follow the School Complaints Procedure

Racial incidents will be recorded and reported to the Local Authority following established procedures and guidelines.

Other prejudice driven behaviour will be recorded and reported following the procedures and guidelines established by Liverpool Local Authority.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the monitoring and evaluation procedure, we monitor:

- The attainment of pupils with protected characteristics and those from vulnerable groups and address any issues of differential progress and achievement
- The exclusion and other aspects of the behaviour management system by protected

characteristics

- The teaching and learning to ensure all pupils' needs are met irrespective of their background and that challenging targets are set for all
- The curriculum and teaching resources to ensure that pupils' experiences are broadened and they are prepared for life in a diverse society
- The protected characteristic composition of the school's staff and Governors, with the aim of presenting positive role models and reflecting the diversity in wider society
- Incidents of racist and homophobic behaviour and the way the school handles and reports them
- The way in which the school is sensitive to, and meets the needs of all stakeholders, paying particular regard to cultural, religious historical, ethnic and/or linguistic heritages
- The way in which the school uses the diversity within its local and wider communities to enrich learning experiences for pupils

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored annually and reviewed every three years in the light of experiences and best practice. This mechanism recognises that changes to legislation might require a review of the policy before the three years stipulated.

In considering the effectiveness of this policy consultation will be undertaken with staff, Governors, pupils and Parents / Carers to assist in this review process.