



# **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY**

Policy reviewed Autumn Term 2023

To be reviewed Autumn Term 2024

# OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY

### Our Visions and Aims for Equality & Diversity

Oakfield Primary School is committed to providing an environment that reflects and respects the diversity of individuals and ensures equality of opportunity for all.

The school seeks to create an ethos and environment which reflects the diverse community at large, because we value the individual contributions of all people.

Any form of discrimination, on the basis of colour, culture, origin, sex or ability is unacceptable in our school. We will treat all individuals with respect and dignity and provide a learning environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

Every member of the school community will endeavour to further this objective personally by contributing towards a happy and caring environment and by showing respect for, and appreciation of, each other as individuals.

Our primary objective will be to educate, develop and prepare all our children, whatever their sex, colour, culture, origin or ability, for life in today's world. No individual should be disadvantaged or treated less favourably because of conditions or requirements imposed, which cannot be objectively justified by the school.

An equal opportunities philosophy will be practised by all staff. We aim to prepare our children to become integral members of the complex society.

### Defining Equality and Diversity

**Equality** - Equality is about fairness and equality of opportunity and advancing equality opportunity involves treating people differently. People should not be treated the same. Some people may need extra help or adjustments to be part of the school community; this includes teachers, administration, cleaning or catering staff employed at the school as well as pupils/students, parents and school governors.

Relating to the Equality Act there are nine 'protected characteristics' these are: age, disability, gender reassignment (transgender), marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion and belief (and having no belief), sex (gender) and sexual orientation. Under the general duty schools must exercise 'due regard' in respect of each of the eight protected characteristics (excluding marriage and civil partnership) to:

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

**Diversity** - Diversity is about valuing people as individuals and learning from our differences. Our differences can be visible and non-visible. Promoting diversity we can meet different needs creatively to ensure opportunities are available to all and potential is fulfilled. Promoting a diversity friendly school culture we are able to meet our school's aims and objectives more efficiently.

Culture is about the way we behave towards one another- school governors, all employees in the school, parents, pupils and the whole school community. It is about how we treat one another and respect our differences. Promoting diversity and a diversity friendly culture helps to create a more productive school community.

## **Purpose and Scope of the Policy**

This policy sets out Oakfield's commitment to promoting equality and diversity. We believe that it is our responsibility to promote equality and diversity wider than the nine characteristics (areas) covered by legislation. We work to remove barriers and we will not unfairly discriminate on any grounds. We do this by:

- Celebrating special events such as Diwali and Chinese New Year through cross-curricular work and Assemblies
- Celebrations displayed on the SMSC board
- Providing a curriculum which promotes positive understanding of different characteristics, recognises the contribution that individuals and groups with protected characteristics make to society, and challenges stereotyping and discrimination
- Monitoring and reviewing this policy and reporting annually on progress in the information we publish to evidence how we are meeting the requirement of the public sector equality duty
- Publishing and reviewing our equality objectives
- Undertaking other activities and measures as outlined in this policy document, our published information and other relevant documents

This policy applies to:

- School Governors
- Staff
- Parents
- Pupils (as appropriate)
- Contractors
- Visitors to the School

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

All members of the school community, governors, staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors all have a part to play in implementing this policy, promoting diversity and equality, challenging inappropriate behaviour or practice to remove barriers and avoiding discrimination.

To promote understanding of this responsibility Oakfield Primary will:

- Ensure governors, staff, parents and contractors are made fully aware of our equality and diversity policy and how it affects their work
- Ensure pupils and visitors to our school are clear about the expectations relating to our commitment to promoting equality and diversity
- Provide training/development and updates as appropriate
- Review our equality objectives and actions to ensure all relevant activity remains relevant and meets the identified needs and priorities of our school

In addition school governors/relevant committee have responsibility for overseeing, agreeing, monitoring and reviewing of our school's equality objectives, and related activity.

## **Breaches of Policy**

Oakfield Primary views any form of discrimination as a serious act of misconduct. Any allegation of a breach in the policy will be investigated by the Head. This may lead to disciplinary or other appropriate action being taken.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Oakfield Primary has specific duties under the Equality Act to publish information about the diversity of our school community and the work we are doing to promote equality. This information can be found on our school website. We will review this information annually.

## **Bullying and Diversity incidents**

### **Pupils**

Oakfield Primary believes all pupils should be safe and feel valued for themselves, whatever characteristics they may have. Bullying and harassment of pupils, staff, parents, visitors and/or contractors by pupils on the basis of their identity (including a perceived characteristic, and by association with a protected characteristic) is unacceptable. Incidents will be logged, investigated and appropriate actions taken to prevent future incidents and to support the victim as outlined in the anti-bullying policy.

### **Staff and Governors**

The council and Oakfield Primary view any form of discrimination undertaken by adults as serious acts of misconduct. Any such breaches could result in disciplinary action being taken and in the case of harassment, might call for police involvement.

### **Diversity Complaints**

Oakfield Primary takes seriously all complaints; where a complaint is related to equality/diversity issues, the school procedure for dealing with complaints will apply. Complaints should be made to S Williams (Headteacher) or C Kupfers (Chair of Governors).