

West Berkshire Model Equality Policy for Schools

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1. Aim

Downsway Primary School takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people in its care. "The welfare of the child is paramount" (Children Act 1989).

At Downsway School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or social-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Downsway School, we believe that diversity is a strength that should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, work and visit here.

2. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to show how we are integrating equality into the school's core priorities and functions, which enables us to:

- Demonstrate how promoting equality and eliminating discrimination can help to raise standards.
- Ensure that equality and diversity are part of the school's core business both as a provider of education and as an employer.
- Promote community cohesion and good relations between pupils and staff of different backgrounds through education.
- Place the school in a position, which is regarded by everyone as an environment that affords respect and fair treatment of all.

3. Applicability

This Equality Policy applies to all of the school's pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, visitors and community users.

The policy supports our responsibilities in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This states that, in carrying out their functions, public bodies, including schools, are required to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Equality Act 2010 has broadened the groups that are protected to include nine protected characteristics. We all have one or more of the protected characteristics, so the Act protects everyone against unfair treatment. The protected characteristics are:-

- (i) **Age:** where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds).
- (ii) **Disability:** a person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
- (iii) **Gender Reassignment:** the process of transitioning from one gender to another.
- (iv) **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** In England and Wales marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).
- (v) **Pregnancy and Maternity:** Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.
- (vi) **Race:** Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.
- (vii) **Religion or Belief:** Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.
- (viii) **Sex:** A man or a woman.
- (ix) **Sexual Orientation:** Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

To show how we are complying with the Act, we are required to:

- Publish information that illustrates how our school impacts on the different protected characteristics;
- Investigate, set and publish objectives that will improve equality in our school.

4. Aims and Objectives

At Downsway School, we will ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that no one with a protected characteristic receives less favourable treatment.

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

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps;
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;
- Ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Seek to involve all parents/carers in supporting their child's education;
- Encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Include teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.

5. Reasonable Adjustments

At Downsway School, we are aware of our duty under the Equality Act 2010 to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on the pupil's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

We take positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils can fully participate in the education provided by the school and that they can enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services that we provide for pupils.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Governing Board

- To adopt and monitor the Equality Policy and equality objectives.
- Ensure the school takes all reasonable steps to ensure that its employees do not carry out unlawful discriminatory actions or behaviour.
- Support and guide the school to have 'due regard' for equality in all its functions.
- Ensure the school complies with the two 'specific' duties to publish equality information and objectives.

The responsibilities of the Head Teacher

- To implement the school's Equality Policy within the school.
- To undertake Equality Impact Assessments for relevant actions, policies, procedures and changes in the school.
- To provide appropriate training for staff in equal opportunities and diversity and its implications for teaching and learning.

- To ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity.
- To ensure that all staff appointment panels give due regard to this Policy in order that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, pay, performance management, promotion and training opportunities.
- To promote the principles of equal opportunity and diversity when developing the curriculum, as well as promoting respect for other people in all aspects of the school's work.
- To ensure that due regard is given to the principles of equality and diversity with respect to all school policies.
- To encourage staff to intervene in a positive way against any occurrence of discrimination.
- To treat all reports of incidents of unfair treatment, discrimination, harassment and victimisation with due seriousness.
- To report any serious incidents involving equality and diversity implications to the Governing Board via the termly Head Teacher to Governor report process (ie three times per annum).
- To provide the Governing Board with appropriate data to enable them to monitor equality.

The responsibilities of all Staff: teaching and non-teaching

- To contribute to the achievement of the school's Equality Objectives.
- To adhere to the school's Equality Policy.
- To ensure that all staff, adults and pupils are treated fairly, equally and with dignity and respect.
- Not to discriminate against any member of staff, adult or pupil.
- To take care when selecting classroom materials, paying due regard to the sensitivities of all members of the class and not using resources that are discriminatory in any way. Staff should strive to provide materials that give positive images based on race, gender and disability and challenges stereotypical images.
- To take care when designing long term planning, paying due regard to the choice of topic to study and how to approach sensitive issues.
- To challenge any incidents of prejudice or discrimination and report these to the Head Teacher or Governing Board as appropriate.

The responsibilities of Pupils

- To adhere to the school's Equality Policy within the school premises, when representing the school at off-site events and when travelling to and from school.
- To treat all staff, adults and other pupils fairly, equally and with dignity and respect.
- Not to discriminate against any member of staff, adult or pupil. Prohibited behaviour is set out in section 6 below.
- To raise any incidents of prejudice or discrimination and report these to a teacher immediately.

7. Prohibited Behaviour under the Equality Act

Harassment on account of any of the protected characteristics is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment. All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs, according to a student's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher/head teacher where necessary. All incidents are reported to the head teacher and the governing board as they occur.

Harassment on grounds of any of the protected characteristics or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

Types of discriminatory incidents include:-

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation gender reassignment or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender, sexual orientation or gender reassignment;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of a discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference eg food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds or race gender, disability, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

8. Responding to and Reporting Incidents

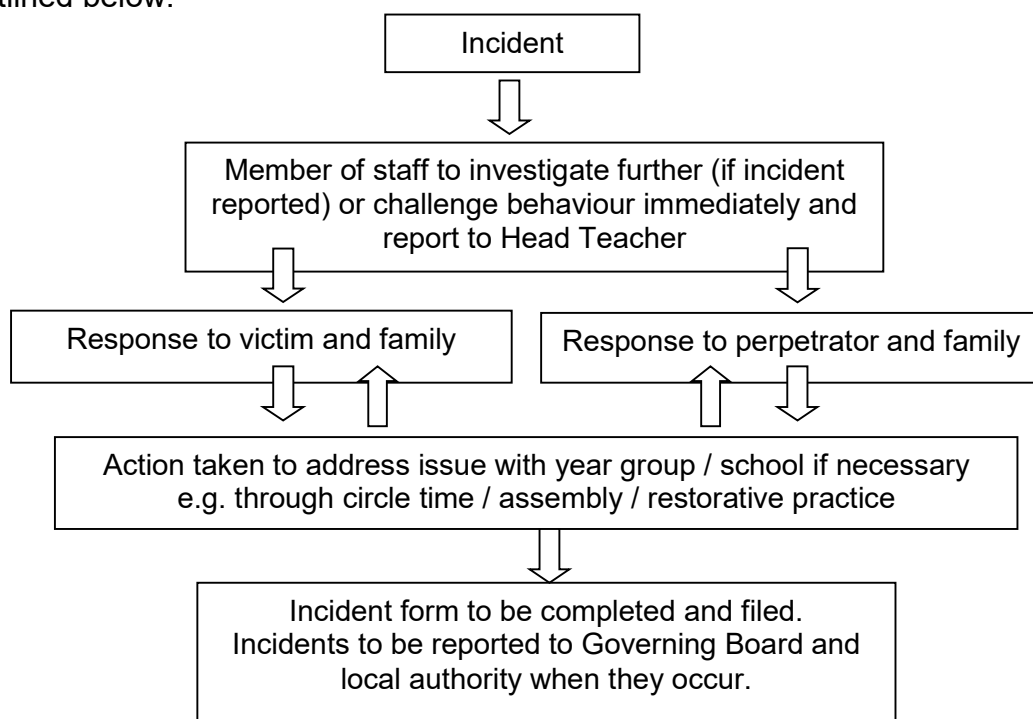
It should be clear to pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the school.

Incidents relating to staff will be dealt with under the following policies and procedures (as appropriate):-

- Disciplinary Procedure for Schools
- Code of Conduct for Schools
- Schools Grievance Procedures
- Responding to Bullying and Harassment Policy for Schools

Incidents involving the Governing Board should be referred to the Chair of Governors.

A suggested procedure for responding and reporting incidents involving pupils is outlined below:



9. Monitoring and Review

The School Management Team and Governing Board recognise that action and progress in relation to equality and diversity needs to be monitored and analysed and in order to do this, we will:-

- Assess the impact of our policies, practices and procedures.
- Review the school's Equality Policy in line with current legislation and any other improvements identified.
- Review the Equality Objectives annually and publish them at least once every four years.
- Monitor data on pupils' achievements, attendance and participation by race, gender and disability and use this to inform strategies to raise achievement.
- Monitor the requirement and selection process to ensure that no individual applying for a post at the school is discriminated against.
- Monitor the school's admissions, behaviour and exclusion policies to ensure that pupils from minority groups are not disadvantaged as a result of the application of these procedures.
- Monitor the use of services to ensure that all sections of the wider community have equal and fair access to services provided.
- Monitor the non-use of school services and take action if barriers to access school services exist.
- Undertake workforce profiling, including the monitoring of school workforce and student demographics.

- Ensure information is available in alternative formats and languages, and that meetings are held in accessible buildings and at suitable times.

10. Published Data

We will publish the following data on the school's website:-

- Equality Objectives will be published at least once every four years.
- Equality data relating to staff and pupils who share a protected characteristic will be published annually to show how the school is complying with the Public Sector Duty. (*Data relating to the workforce is only required for schools with 150 staff or more*). This **could** include:-
 - (i) The race, disability, gender and age distribution (where appropriate)
 - (ii) An indication of likely representation on sexual orientation and religion/belief (provided no one can be identified as a result).
 - (iii) An indication of any issues for transsexual staff and pupils, based on engagement with transsexual staff or voluntary groups
 - (iv) Staff grievances and dismissals.
 - (v) Pupil exclusions.
 - (vi) Attainment data to show how pupils with different characteristics are performing.
 - (vii) Information on the steps being taken in response to the analysis undertaken of the available attainment data.

11. Equality Objectives

Equality objectives may arise from analysis schools have carried out on their published data or other information, where they have identified an area where there is potential for improvement on equalities. Alternatively equality objectives may be set in anticipation of a change in local circumstances. Some examples for primary and secondary schools might be, however these would clearly change over time:-

Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
To reduce the incidence of homophobic language, hostile attitudes and behaviour towards and between, pupils with and without a disability	To reduce the incidence of the use of homophobic language by pupils in school
To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities, with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity	To narrow the gap between boys and girls in English KS3 and KS4 results
To reduce the number of prejudice-based incidents, in particular towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and increase understanding of equality through direct teaching across the curriculum	To reduce the number of prejudice-related incidents, in particular towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils
To narrow the gap between boys and	To narrow the gap between boys and girls

girls in mathematics at Level 5	achievement and attitudes throughout year 9
To narrow the gap between boys and girls in writing by the end of KS1	To foster good relations further between different communities within our school
To promote cultural development and understanding through a rich range of experiences both in and beyond the school	To narrow the gap between the different black and minority ethnic groups in English KS3 and KS4 results
To continually consider how well the school ensures equality of opportunities for all its pupils	To promote cultural understanding between different ethnic groups within our school community.
To tackle prejudice and promote understanding in relation to people with disabilities	To reduce the incidence of prejudice-related bullying in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010
To narrow the gap in mathematics between boys and girls at the end of Key Stage 1	
To narrow the gap between children with and without disabilities at the end of Key Stage 2.	

12. Further Documentation

- Equality Act 2010
- Department for Education Advice: The Equality Act 2010 and Schools (May 2014)

13. Other Related Statutory Policies for Schools

- School Behaviour
- Admissions Arrangements
- Behaviour Principles Written Statement
- Complaints (incorporating the Complaints Procedure)
- Accessibility Plan
- Premises Management Documents
- School Information Published on a Website
- Capability of Staff (Staff Capability)

14. Adoption and Review Date

The Equality Policy was adopted by WBC in September 2016 and will be reviewed by the Governing Board every three years.

15. Check List for School Staff and Governors

- Is information collected on the protected characteristics with regards to both pupils and staff* e.g. pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions, staff training? Is this information used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities the school provides? *Data relating to staff does not need to be published where the school has less than 150 employees.
- Are the Equality Objectives specific and measurable and have they taken into account areas for improvement identified through analysis of the published data?
- Is pupil achievement analysed by the protected characteristics? Are there trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action, and has action been taken to address these?
- Does the curriculum include opportunities to understand the issues related to the protected characteristics?
- Are all pupils encouraged to participate in school life? Are pupils who make a positive contribution reflective of the school's diversity e.g. through class assemblies / school council?
- Is bullying and harassment of pupils and staff monitored by the protected characteristics and is this information used to make a difference to the experience of other pupils? Are incidents of bullying and harassment related to the protected characteristics reported to the governing board when they occur?
- Are visual displays reflective of the diversity of your school community? How are role models related to the protected characteristics promoted positively in lessons, displays and discussions such as circle time and class assemblies?
- Does the school take part in annual events such as Black History Month, Deaf Awareness Week and One World Week to raise awareness of issues around the protected characteristics?
- Is the school environment as accessible as possible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school? Are open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend held in an accessible part of the school, and are issues such as language barriers considered?
- Are the facilities selected for activities off site including residential trips as accessible as possible to pupils and staff?

Are the accessibility needs of parents, pupils and staff considered in the publishing and sending out of information, in terms of the protected characteristics?

Are procedures for the election of parent governors open to candidates and voters who are disabled?

Date reviewed by Governors: 9th November 2022

Date for next review: November 2025