

Westlands First and Nursery School

Equality Information and Objectives Policy

The school policy for the Equality and Diversity reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

Policy ratified	September 2023
Review date	September 2024

Rationale

“The Equality Act 2010 replaced all previous equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Discrimination Act and Sex Discrimination Act. This Act provides a single, consolidated source of discrimination law, covering all the types of discrimination that are unlawful.”

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/policiesandprocedures/equalityanddiversity/a0064570/-equality-act-2010>

The Equality Act 2010 requires all public bodies to have due regard to encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life and to promote equality of opportunity.

This Act introduced a single Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) that applies to public bodies, including maintained schools and academies, and which extends to all protected characteristics- race, disability, sex, age, religion, belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. This combined equality duty came into effect in April 2011. It has three main elements. In carrying out their functions, public bodies are required to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics- between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Aims and Values

Westlands First and Nursery School is a welcoming school where everyone is valued highly and where tolerance, honesty, co-operation and mutual respect for others are fostered. We are committed to the development of the whole person within a supportive, secure and creative environment. A broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum provides equal opportunity for all pupils to maximise their potential regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion or disability. We endeavour to promote positive relationships with parents, governors and members of the wider community. At Westlands First and Nursery School we aim to promote equality and tackle any form of discrimination and actively promote harmonious

relations in all areas of school life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

We strive to achieve our aims in the firm belief that every child should attend school with pleasure, satisfaction and profit, leave with regret and remember with pride.

As a school:

- We believe that each member of the school community deserves respect and care
- We endeavour to ensure that all pupils achieve to their full potential
- We value good relationships between the different members of the school community

We aim to:

- Provide a secure environment in which all our children can flourish and achieve all five outcomes of 'Every Child Matters' (be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and enjoy economic well-being).
- Provide a learning environment where all individuals see themselves reflected and feel a sense of belonging.
- Prepare children for life in a diverse society in which children are able to see their place in the local, regional, national and international community
- Include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity.
- Provide positive non-stereotyping information about different groups of people regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age
- Plan systematically to improve our understanding and promotion of diversity.
- Actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage.
- Make inclusion a thread which runs through all our activities.

To achieve these aims we will:

- Involve whole school community in the development, review, evaluation, and impact assessment of all relevant improvement plans, policies and procedures.
- Publish and share our policies and impact assessments with the whole community.
- Collect and analyse data to ensure all groups are progressing well and no group is subject to disadvantage.
- Use all available information to set suitable learning challenges for all, respond to pupils' diverse needs and overcome any potential barriers to learning.
- Ensure that the wider school curriculum makes explicit and implicit provision to promote and celebrate diversity.
- Have high expectations of behaviour which demonstrates respect to others.

Policy Planning and Review

Westlands First and Nursery School will monitor and review this policy annually, in the light of further guidance or in response to monitoring activities.

Policy planning and development

- There will be a systematic review of the impact of all policies and procedures on equality and diversity to address any areas of inequality.

- Our target-setting processes ensure appropriate, challenging targets are set in relation to identifiable groups as well as individual pupils / cohorts.

Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- Each pupil's progress is monitored and tracked. The resulting data is analysed in respect of gender, race, ability or additional needs, looked-after status.
- In addition to monitoring to rule out any potential disadvantage, quality assurance procedures ensure the school meets its duty to positively promote diversity.
- The data collected is used to inform further school planning, target-setting and decision-making.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Westlands First and Nursery School is committed to:

- Being proactive in promoting good relationships and equality of opportunity across all aspects of school life and the wider community.
- Encouraging, supporting and enabling all pupils and staff to reach their potential and make a positive contribution.
- Working in partnership with families, the local authority (LA) and the wider community to establish, promote and disseminate inclusive practice, and tackle discrimination ensuring that our Equality and Diversity Policy is followed.

Responsibilities:

The Governing Body

It is the Governing Body's responsibility to:

- Ensure that the school complies with equality legislation.
- Meet requirements to publish equality schemes.
- Ensure that the school's policy and its procedures and strategies are carried out and monitored with appropriate impact assessments informing future plans.
- Scrutinise the recording and reporting procedures at least annually.
- Follow the LA's admissions policy, which is fair and equitable in its treatment of all groups.
- Monitor attendance and take appropriate action where necessary.
- Have equal opportunities in staff recruitment and professional development and membership of the Governing Body.
- Provide information in appropriate, accessible formats.
- Be involved in dealing with serious breaches of the policy.
- Be pro-active in recruiting high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.

The Headteacher

It is the Headteacher's responsibility to:

- Implement the policy and its strategies and procedures.
- Ensure that all staff receive appropriate and relevant continuous professional development.
- Actively challenge and take appropriate action in any cases of discriminatory practice.

- Deal with any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with LA guidance.
- Ensure that all visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the school's equality and diversity policy.
- Produce a report on equality and diversity for governors annually, as part of the monitoring and reviewing process.

All Staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Be vigilant in all areas of the school for any type of harassment and bullying.
- Deal effectively with all incidents from overt name-calling to the more subtle forms of victimisation caused by perceived differences.
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and in the school's culture.
- Promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on grounds of race, gender, religion, age and sexual orientation.
- Promote an inclusive curriculum and whole school ethos which reflects our diverse society.
- Keep up to date with equality legislation, development and issues by attending relevant training and accessing information from appropriate sources.

Breaches of the Policy

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the Governing Body and LA as required.

Related Policies and Documents:

Behaviour policy

Access and Inclusion Policy

Curriculum Statement

Safeguarding Policy

Access to Education for pupils with Medical Needs

Anti-bullying Policy

Charging for School Activities

PE Policy

Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

Disability and Equality Act 2010