

Equal Opportunities Policy

Equality of opportunity at Gorsemoor Primary School is about providing equality and excellence for all in order to promote the highest possible standards of achievement. Equality of opportunity applies to all members of the school community - pupils, staff, governors, parents and community members.

We aim to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across all aspects of school life. We do this by:

- Creating an ethos in which pupils and staff feel valued and secure;
- Building self-esteem and confidence in our pupils, so they can use these qualities to achieve their full potential and become rounded citizens of the wider community;
- Have consistent expectations of the pupils and their learning;
- Removing or minimising barriers to learning, so that all pupils can achieve;
- Ensuring that our teaching takes into account the learning needs of all pupils through our curriculum and lesson planning;
- Actively tackling discrimination and promoting equality through our curriculum;
- Making clear to our pupils what constitutes aggressive and discriminatory behaviour;
- Ensuring class and school resources reflect society as a whole;
- Has clear procedures for dealing with discriminatory incidents and that these are understood by all; and
- Ensure all pupils develop mutual respect through the school ethos, teachings and adult example.

These aims are designed to ensure that the school meets the needs of all of its community, taking account of the nine protected characteristics; race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy, maternity and gender reassignment. It is important that in this school we meet the diverse needs of pupils to ensure inclusion for all and that all pupils are prepared for full participation in a multi-ethnic society.

The schools commitment to equality for all

- Ensuring that all pupils and staff are encouraged and able to achieve to their full potential;
- Respecting and valuing differences between people;
- Preparing pupils for life in a diverse society;
- Acknowledging the existence of discrimination and taking steps to prevent it
- Making the school a place where everyone, irrespective of a protected characteristic, feels welcomed and valued;
- Promoting good relations between groups within the school and the wider community;
- Ensuring that an inclusive ethos is established and maintained;
- Opposing all forms of discrimination and harassment;
- Being proactive in tackling and eliminating unlawful discrimination.

School ethos

The school opposes all forms of racism, harassment, prejudice and discrimination.

The school publicly supports diversity and actively promotes good personal and community relations. Diversity is recognised as having a positive role to play within the school.

Staff foster a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust among pupils from all groups.

The school caters for the dietary and dress requirements of different groups subject to health and safety regulations.

The school enables pupils and staff to celebrate festivals and other events relevant to their particular diversity and actively encourages all pupils to understand these.

Clear procedures are in place to ensure that staff deal with forms of bullying and harassment promptly, firmly and consistently. Actions taken are in line with relevant LA policies and guidance such as those for anti-bullying and dealing with racist incidents.

All forms of harassment are recorded, monitored and dealt with in line with relevant school policies.

Pupils, staff and parents are aware of the procedures for dealing with intolerant behaviour and that such behaviour is always unacceptable.

Staff will go on courses to train them to deal effectively with bullying, discriminatory incidents, harassment and prejudice.

2014-2105 equality objectives

Each year the school will set specific equality targets to improve the provision set out within this policy.

School equality objectives for 2014-2015 are:

1. To further increase the experience and expertise of all staff responsible for children with specific medical and physical needs.
2. To further improve accessibility for pupils with medical conditions within school. Arrange appropriate provisions and training.

Leadership & Management

- School policies reflect a commitment to equal opportunities.
- The governing body and the school leadership set a clear ethos that reflects the school's commitment to equality for all members of the school community.
- The school promotes positive approaches to valuing and respecting diversity.
- The school leadership will work in partnership with others to promote equality of opportunity and oppose all forms of oppressive behaviour, prejudice and discrimination.
- Governors and Staff contribute to policy documents. Parents can request to see policies and have their views taken note of.

Staffing: recruitment and professional development

- The school adheres to recruitment and selection procedures that are fair, equal and in line with statutory duties and LA guidelines.