



Equal Opportunities Policy

(including Disability Non-Discrimination; EAL; Gifted and Talented; Racial Equality; SEN, sexual orientation, social background, religious belief and gender reassignment)

1 Introduction

1.1 Our school vision, where all children feel safe, happy and loved, is based upon valuing the individuality of all of our children. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and have high expectations of all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. This policy is intended to help to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all children, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or background.

1.2 This policy accords with legislation:

- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000);
- Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act (2002);
- Sex Discrimination Act (1975).

Valour MAT recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to the nine characteristics protected in law:

- 1. Age
- 2. Sex
- 3. Race
- 4. Marriage and Civil Partnerships
- 5. Pregnancy and Maternity
- 6. Gender reassignment
- 7. Disability
- 8. Sexual Orientation
- 9. Religion or belief.

The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- in relation to admissions,
- in the way it provides education for pupils,
- in the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service, or
- by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

2 Equality objectives

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- 2.1 We do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil or parent, on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender realignment or background.
 - 2.2 We promote the principle of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school. We recognise that doing this may entail treating some pupils differently.
 - 2.3 We seek to ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.
 - 2.4 We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning for some groups.
 - 2.5 We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone.
 - 2.6 We challenge personal prejudice and stereotypical views whenever they occur.
 - 2.7 We value each pupil's worth, we celebrate the individuality and cultural diversity of the community centred on our school, and we show respect for all minority groups.
 - 2.8 We are aware that prejudice and stereotyping are caused by poor self-image and by ignorance. Through positive educational experiences, and support for each individual's legitimate point of view, we aim to promote positive social attitudes, and respect for all.

3 Racial equality

- 3.1 In our school we will:
 - strive to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination;
 - promote equality of opportunity;
 - promote good relations between people of different racial and ethnic groups.
- 3.2 It is the right of all pupils to receive the best education the school can provide, with access to all educational activities organised by the school. We do not tolerate any forms of racism or racist behaviour. Should a racist incident occur, we will deal with it in accordance with school procedures. The incident will be recorded on CPOMS and the Head Teacher will take advice from the Local authority where appropriate.
- 3.3 We endeavour to make our school welcoming to all minority groups. We promote an understanding of diverse cultures through the topics studied by the children, and we reflect this in the displays of work shown around the school.
- 3.4 Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for minority ethnic groups. So, for example, in the curriculum topic on religious festivals, the children learn the importance of the Islamic faith to Muslims.

4 Disability non-discrimination

- 4.1 Some children in our school have disabilities. We are committed to meeting the needs of all children and being fully inclusive. Our school fully meets the requirements of the amended Disability Discrimination Act that came into effect in September 2002. All reasonable steps are

taken to ensure that our children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled children.

4.2 The school is committed to providing an environment that allows disabled children full access to all areas of learning.

4.3 Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with disabilities. For example, they may give additional time to complete certain activities, or modify teaching materials, or offer alternative activities where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment.

5 Gender equality

5.1 We recognise that nationally the achievement of boys is falling behind that of girls. We are committed to seeing all individuals and groups of pupils making the best progress possible in our school.

5.2 We have put in place a number of measures to raise the achievement of the boys. These include:

- removing gender bias from our resources;
- making sure that our displays and resources reflect the interests of our boys
- encouraging boys to read fiction.
- Choosing topics based on the interests of our children in Early Years so that across the year there is a balance of topics which would be of interest to both boys and girls

5.3 To make our teaching more boy-friendly, we:

- begin a lesson by stating the learning outcomes, and giving the 'big picture';
- employ a variety of activities, and include a kinaesthetic element;
- deliver work in bite-sized chunks, with 'brain breaks' and new starts;
- provide challenge, competition and short-term goals;
- give regular positive feedback and rewards;
- set writing tasks that are cross-curricular, that have been modelled first, and for which there are frames and scaffolds available.

5.4 We realise that although gender is one of the key factors affecting educational performance, it affects different sub-groups of boys and girls in different ways. Social class, ethnic origin and local context are all strongly linked to performance. We also seek to ensure that policies designed to improve the boys' attainment do not do so at the expense of achievement by the girls.

6 The role of the Local Advisory Board (LAB)

6.1 In this policy statement the LAB has set out its commitment to equal opportunities, and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that all members of the school community are treated both fairly and equally.

6.2 The LAB collects, analyses and evaluates a range of school data. We check that all pupils are making the best possible progress, and that no group of pupils is underachieving. To do this we monitor:

- admissions;
- attainment;
- exclusions;

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- rewards and sanctions;
 - parents' and pupils' questionnaires.

- 6.3** The LAB seeks to ensure that people with disabilities are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school. The LAB take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment properly accommodates people with disabilities.
- 6.4** The LAB will and Valour Trust have created and adopted Equality Objectives and monitor recruitment to both boards
- 6.5** The LAB welcome all applications to join the school, whatever background or disability a child may have.
- 6.6** The LAB ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their sex, religion or race. So, for example, all children have access to the full range of the curriculum, and regulations regarding school uniform will be applied equally to boys and girls. If a child's religion has a bearing on school uniform, then the school will deal with each case sensitively, and with respect for the child's cultural traditions.

7 The role of the headteacher

- 7.1** It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's policy on equal opportunities, and she is supported by the LAB in so doing.
- 7.2** It is the headteacher's role to make sure that all staff are aware of the school policy on equal opportunities, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- 7.3** The headteacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this policy, so that no-one is discriminated against.
- 7.4** The headteacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and in providing opportunities for training.
- 7.5** The headteacher promotes respect for other people in all aspects of school life; in the assembly, for example, respect for other people is a regular theme, as it is also in displays around the school.
- 7.6** The headteacher views all incidents of unfair treatment, and any racist incidents, with due concern.

8 The role of the class teacher

- 8.1** Class teachers do their best to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and with respect. We do not knowingly discriminate against any child but are aware of the potential for unconscious bias
- 8.2** When selecting classroom material, teachers strive to provide resources which give positive images, and which challenge stereotypical images of minority groups.
- 8.3** We seek to implement this policy when designing schemes of work, both in our choice of topics to study, and in how we approach sensitive issues. So, for example, history topics include

examples of the significant contributions women have made in this country's history. In geography the teacher attempts to counter stereotypical images of Africa and Asia, and to show the true diversity of development in different parts of the world.

- 8.4** All our teachers and support staff challenge any incidents of prejudice or racism. We record any incidents on CPOMS and seek advice from the local authority prevent team if deemed necessary.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the effectiveness of this policy and feedback to the Valour Trust Board. The LAB will therefore:

- monitor the progress of pupils from minority groups, comparing it to the progress made by other pupils in the school;
- monitor the staff appointment process, so that no-one applying for a post at this school is discriminated against;
- require the headteacher to report to LAB regularly on the effectiveness of this policy;
- take into serious consideration any complaints from parents, staff or pupils regarding equal opportunity;
- monitor the school's behaviour policy, and the numbers of exclusions, to make sure that pupils from minority groups are not unfairly treated.

- 9.2** This policy will be reviewed by the LAB every two years, or earlier if it is considered necessary.

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