



Equality Statement & Objectives

Courtney Primary School

Date Ratified: October 2016

Review Date: October 2019

Signed by: Deborah Wood

Position: Head teacher

The Governors and staff of Courtney Primary School are committed to the principle and practice of equality of opportunity.

We have an inclusive ethos which means all staff, pupils and parents work together to ensure that everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or social background can thrive.

Our community is predominately white British but we also serve pupils and their families from other backgrounds. Alongside our commitment to valuing the cultural inheritance of all the pupils in the school, the lack of diversity in our immediate area highlights the need to develop our pupils understanding and appreciation of equality and diversity in both the school and wider British society.

Through our assemblies and our curriculum, we ensure our pupils consider and value diversity and celebrate different cultural inheritances, even if they have little direct experience of them.

Pupils are taught to respect and celebrate difference and understand that everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or disability has equal value. Staff model respect and understanding in all their dealings within school. Being proud of our similarities and differences is part of our core Crown values.

We carefully monitor the progress of pupils who fall into particular groupings (Free School Meals, Black Minority, Ethnic, Girls, Boys, Special Educational Needs, English as an Additional Language, Pupil Premium) and put in place strategies within and outside the classroom to ensure that the educational achievement of other pupils, both within the school and nationally.

Equality Objectives

At Courtney Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, religion or socio-economic background.

In order to further support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching, we have set the following objectives:-

Objective 1: To monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.

Objective 2: To raise levels of attainment in core subjects for all groups of learners, including disadvantaged.

Objective 3: To review levels of parental and pupil engagement in learning and school life, across all activities to ensure equity and fairness in access and engagement.

Objective 4: To nurture a culture of inclusivity within the staff team.

Appendix 1

Overview of the Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty (the Equality Duty) was created by the Equality Act 2010 in order to harmonise the previous race, disability and gender equality duties and to extend protection to the new protected characteristics listed in the Act. The Equality Duty replaced these duties and it came into force on 5 April 2011.

The duty covers age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. It applies in England, Scotland and in Wales. The general equality duty is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

In summary, those subject to the general equality duty must 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.

These are sometimes referred to as the three aims of the general equality duty. The Act helpfully explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the equality duty may involve treating some people more favourably than others.

The duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination also covers marriage and civil partnership in the workplace.