

**SHERWOOD PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**SINGLE
EQUALITIES
POLICY**

June 2013

Background

Most of the clauses of the Equality Act 2010 came into effect in October 2010. The primary purpose of the legislation is to bring together existing equalities legislation. Primarily these are the Equal Pay Act of 1970, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act of 1976, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and three major statutory instruments of recent years protecting discrimination in employment on grounds of religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. It also builds on the 2006 Equality Act which instigated the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The 2010 Act imposes equality duties in respect of each of the equality strands (now called 'characteristics').

The Equality Act has a single equality duty of positively combating inequality. It brings all existing provisions into line with one another and extends beyond race, gender and disability to now include the characteristics of age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. The Act also identifies other characteristics such as marital status, pregnancy, having caring responsibilities or maternity. The definition of equality is therefore wider than it has been before. Additionally, requirements that in the past have been seen as good practice are now legally enforceable. For example, the law now requires that as part of their procurement processes, public bodies should prefer companies that it contracts with to have a positive record on equality matters.

There are also implications for the community cohesion agenda. The existing duty to promote good race relations has been replaced with a generic one to promote good relations. The Equality Act will require all public authorities to take the aspects of interaction, empowerment, personal security and attitudes to others into account. Community cohesion is in sympathy with most, if not all, of the requirements in the legislation and thus there should not be a radical departure in terms of delivery.

As part of Lancashire's continuing commitment to fostering community cohesion, we will work to narrow gaps in outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. This is in line with Lancashire County Council's priorities on closing the gaps (see 'Narrowing the Gaps: 2010 – 2013, Fairness for All' – Lancashire County Council).

I Statement of Principles

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of Sherwood Primary School to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school, this means not simply treating everybody the same, but understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of pupils in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the equal opportunity achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Parents/carers
- The governing body
- Multi-agency staff linked to the school
- Visitors to school
- Students on placement

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

At Sherwood Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

Pupils discussed what 'equality' meant to them during a meeting of the Children's Council in November 2012. They came up with these comments:

Equality

- Everybody is as equal as each other
- Everyone has different qualities
- Some classrooms are bigger than others
- Every single person is a little bit different
- Some people are good at things others might not be as good as
- All the people in the world should get to be able to do everything
- All people are important but everyone is different
- Everyone is equal
- Everybody doesn't do the same things.

Issues

- Some classrooms are smaller than others
- Years 3 / 4 cloakrooms are too small
- Year 3 upwards do not get milk
- Some children get easier work than others
- Junior playground is bigger than the infant playground
- Higher levels in Library
- Not fair some classes get new areas and others don't

- Year 6 cloakroom is too small
- Not fair some take part in Year 4 Olympics and others didn't go

2 School in Context

- Currently we have 180 girls and 227 boys on the school roll.

- Ethnicity is made up as follows:

White – British	229
Indian	117
Pakistani	27
Any other Asian background	12
White + Black Caribbean	2
Black African	1
Any other white	4
Any other mixed	5
Any other ethnic group	1
White and Asian	4
Black Caribbean	1
Bangladeshi	2
Any other black	1
Refused to put in our groups	1
Total	407

- Pakistani, Asian British and Indian are represented in the school staff and Pakistani and Indian on the governing body.

- The linguistic profile of the school is as follows:

Language	
English	304
Gujarat	62
Urdu	24
Arabic	6
Kannada	1
Hindi	3
Panjabi	4
Malayalam	1
Tamil	1
Bengali	1
Total	407

- We do not have any pupils with a disability on the school roll.
- We do not have any staff or governors who have a disability.
- Is the school physically accessible? – See Attached Report – Appendix 2)
- At the present time we do not have any Children in Care on roll.

3 Ethos and Atmosphere

- At Sherwood Primary School, the leadership of the school community will demonstrate mutual respect between all members of the school community
- There is an *openness* of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the school
- All within the school community will challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour, e.g. through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions
- All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect
- The displays around the school are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored
- Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities

4 Policy Development

This policy applies to the whole school community. It has been drawn up as a result of the outcomes of a transparent process and through consultation with:

- (i) The School Council (pupil representatives)
- (ii) The parents of pupils at the school through parental questionnaire
- (iii) School staff through discussion
- (iv) With the governing body through discussion, building audit and meetings.

5 Monitoring and Review

Sherwood Primary School is an inclusive school, working towards greater equality in the whole school community. We use the curriculum and teaching to enhance the self-esteem of all those it serves and to provide a learning environment in which each individual is encouraged to fulfil her or his potential.

We collect and analyse a range of equality information for our pupils/students:

- EYFSP data
- Key Stage 1 end of stage data
- Key Stage 2 SATs and teacher assessment data
- End of year attainment data
- Attendance data
- Exclusion data
- Bullying / behaviour incidents
- SEN % across all stages

All this data is analysed by ethnicity, disability, gender and free school meals (FSM). Groups of children are consistently tracked through school. This analysis is used to complete self evaluation plans (including ROSE) and to write the School Development Plan.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupils' progress, as they move through the school. As part of this process, we regularly monitor the performance of different groups, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress. We use this information to adjust future teaching and learning plans, as necessary.

Resources are available to support groups of pupils where the information suggests that progress is not as good as it should be. The governing body receives regular updates on pupil performance information.

School performance information is compared to national data and Local Authority data, to ensure that pupils are making appropriate progress when compared to all schools, and to schools in similar circumstances.

As well as monitoring pupil performance information, we also regularly monitor a range of other information. This relates to:

- Attendance
- Exclusions and truancy

- Racism, disability, prejudice sexism, homophobia and all forms of bullying
- Parental involvement
- Participation in Extended Learning Opportunities

Our monitoring activities enable us to identify any differences in pupil performance and provide specific support as required, including pastoral support. This allows us to take appropriate action to meet the needs of specific groups in order to make necessary improvements.

Sherwood Primary School is also committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation. We aim to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and establish a governing body that is representative of all sections of the community in order to respect and respond to the diverse needs of our population.

The Employment Duty within the legislation states all schools should collect information on staff in post, and applicants for employment, training and promotion. This is deemed to be best practice in order to identify potentially discriminatory practice.

We collect and analyse the following profile information for our staff and governors: *Applicants for employment, staff profile, governing body profile, attendance at training events, disciplinary and grievance cases, staff appraisal/performance management, exit interviews.*

Due regard is given to the promotion of equality in the School Improvement Plan. The person responsible for the monitoring and evaluation is the headteacher and governor responsible for equality.

Their role is to:

- Lead discussions, organise training, update staff in staff meetings, support discussions
- Work with the governing body on matters relating to equality
- Support evaluation activities that moderate the impact and success of this policy

6 Developing Best Practice

Learning and Teaching

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

- Provide equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and religions and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Use a range of sensitive teaching strategies when teaching about different cultural and religious traditions
- Develop pupils advocacy skills so that they can detect bias, challenge discrimination, leading to justice and equality
- Ensure that the whole curriculum covers issues of equality and diversity;
- All subject leaders' departments, where appropriate, promote and celebrate the contribution of different cultures to the subject matter
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education
- Provide educational visits and extended learning opportunities that involve all pupil groups
- Take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all groups of pupils
- Identify resources and training that support staff development

Learning Environment :

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination. All pupils are encouraged to improve on their own achievements and not to measure themselves against others. Parents are also encouraged to view their own children's achievements in this light.

- Teacher enthusiasm is a vital factor in achieving a high level of motivation and good results from all pupils
- Adults in the school will provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity
- The school should place a very high priority on the provision for special educational needs and disability. We will meet all pupils' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered programmes of work
- The school must provide an environment in which all pupils have equal access to all facilities and resources
- All pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning
- A range of teaching methods are to be used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils
- Consideration will be given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage

Ethos and Atmosphere

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- All within the school community will challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour e.g. through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions
- There should be an *openness* of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the school
- All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect
- The displays around the school are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored
- Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities

Curriculum

At Sherwood Primary School, we aim to ensure that our:

- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality and diversity
- Pupils will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality
- Steps are taken to ensure that all pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum by taking into account their cultural, backgrounds, linguistic needs and learning styles
- All pupils have access to qualifications which recognise attainment and achievement and promote progression

Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within Sherwood Primary School is a high priority. These resources should:

- Reflect the reality of an ethnically, culturally and sexually diverse society
- Reflect a variety of viewpoints
- Show positive images of males and females in society
- Include non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context
- Be accessible to all members of school community

Language

We recognise that it is important at Sherwood Primary School that all members of the school community use appropriate language which:

- Does not transmit or confirm stereotypes
- Does not offend
- Creates and enhances positive images of particular groups identified at the beginning of this document
- Creates the conditions for all people to develop their self esteem
- Uses accurate language in referring to particular groups or individuals and challenges in instances where this is not the case

Extended Learning Opportunities

It is the policy of this school to provide equal access to all activities from an early age.

We undertake responsibility for making contributions to extended learning opportunities and are aware of the school's commitment to equality of opportunity (e.g. sports helpers, coach drivers) by providing them with written guidelines drawn from this policy.

We try to ensure that all such non staff members who have contact with children adhere to these guidelines.

Provision for Bi-lingual Pupils

At Sherwood Primary School we have 25% English as an additional language.

We undertake at Sherwood Primary School to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bi-lingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups may include:

- Pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Pupils who are new to the United Kingdom
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children
- Advanced bi-lingual learners
- Use first language effectively for learning

Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance

- Staff take account of gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination and the experience and needs of particular groups such as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, refugee and asylum seeker pupils
- All pupils are encouraged to consider the full range of career opportunities available to them with no discriminatory boundaries placed on them due to their disability, gender, race or sexual orientation
- All pupils/staff/parents/carers are given support, as appropriate, when they experience discrimination
- We recognise that perpetrators may also be victims and require support.
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of pupils can see themselves reflected in the school community
- Emphasis is placed on the value that diversity brings to the school community rather than the challenges.

Staffing and Staff Development

We recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff.

- This must include pupils' access to a balance of male and female staff at all key stages where possible
- We encourage the career development and aspirations of all school staff
- It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of pupils
- Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds

Staff Recruitment

- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and ensure equality good practice through the recruitment and selection process
- Equalities policies and practices are covered in all staff inductions
- All temporary staff are made aware of policies and practices
- Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact

Partnerships with Parents/Carers/Families and the Wider Community

We will work with parents/carers to help all pupils to achieve their potential.

- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school.
- Setting up, as part of the schools' commitment to equality and diversity, a group made up of all stakeholders of the school community. This has been/will be developed to support the school with matters related to its equalities duties
- Members of the local community are encouraged to join in school activities
- Exploring the possibility of the school having a role to play in supporting new and settled communities

7 Roles and Responsibilities

- Our governing body will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this policy and action plan
- The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, and will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that they are given necessary training and support and report progress to the governing body
- The headteacher has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this policy
- Our staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs and maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues
- All members of the school community have a responsibility to treat each other and staff with respect, to feel valued, and to speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour
- We will take steps to ensure all visitors to the school adhere to our commitment to equality

8 Commissioning and Procurement

Sherwood Primary School is required by law to make sure that when we buy services from another organisation they will help us to provide high quality education, and will comply with equality legislation. This will be a significant factor in any tendering process.

9 The Measurement of Impact of the Policy

This policy will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. An action plan will be published to enable an impact assessment to be undertaken at the appropriate time within a given timescale.

10 Publicising the Policy and Plan

This policy will be available for viewing on our school website. A paper copy is also kept in school in our policy files.

11 Equality Impact Assessments

The school will undertake equality impact assessments (EIAs) similar to undertaking health and safety risk assessments. It involves predicting and assessing what the implications of a policy, function or strategy will be on a wide range of people.

Appendix – Equality Legislation Guidance

What does a school need to do?

Race

The term race includes colour, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin and citizenship as well as race.

The Race Equality Duty

What is it?

- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (which includes the Race Equality Duty) amended the Race Relations Act 1976
- It came into effect from April 2001

Who is covered?

- Pupils, parents/carers, prospective pupils and parents/carers, staff, job applicants, governors and others using school facilities

General duties

- Tackle racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good relations between persons of different racial groups

Specific duties

- From May 2002 publish a Race Equality Policy which includes an implementation strategy or action plan (effectively a Race Equality Scheme), monitor it annually and review it every three years
- Involve appropriate and diverse stakeholders in developing the policy
- Monitoring the impact of the school's policies on pupils' performance and progress
- Provide ethnic monitoring data on their staff in regular returns to the Local Authority

Reporting racist incidents in schools

Schools are required to have in place a procedure for dealing with and reporting racist incidents, which includes providing an annual summary of racist incidents to Lancashire County Council.

Disability

What is a disability?

- Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. That effect must be:

substantial (more than minor or trivial)

adverse

long-term (it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year or for the rest of the life of the person affected).

There is no need for a person to have a specific, medically-diagnosed cause for their impairment – what matters is the effect of the impairment, not the cause.

Examples include hearing or sight impairments, a significant mobility difficulty, mental health conditions or learning difficulties. There are many other types of condition, illness or injury that can result in a person being *disabled* (e.g. diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart conditions, facial disfigurement).

General duties

- Promote equality of opportunity
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Eliminate disability-related harassment
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encourage disabled people's participation in public life
- Take steps to take into account people's disabilities.

Specific duties

- From December 2006 for secondary schools and from December 2007 for primary schools, special schools and PRUs, must prepare and publish a disability equality scheme, monitor it annually and review it every three years
- Involve disabled people in the development of the scheme
- Set out in their scheme:

how disabled people have been involved in its preparation

their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of the school's policies on:

- o the recruitment, development and retention of disabled employees
- o the educational opportunities available to and the achievements of disabled pupils

o the school's methods for assessing the impact of its current or proposed policies and practices on disability equality

o the steps the school is going to take to meet the general duty (the school's action plan)

o the arrangements for using information to support the review of the action plan and to inform subsequent schemes.

GENDER

The term gender includes boys, girls, men and women, and transgender/transsexual people. (The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender).

What is the difference between sex and gender?

- Sex refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.
- Gender is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women. While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be.

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexism is any prejudice and discrimination against individuals and groups who are lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) or are perceived to be so. It is based on the assumption that everyone is or should be heterosexual. Expressions of dislike, contempt or fear based on heterosexism are usually known as **homophobia**, although **lesophobia** and **biphobia** are also coming into use.

Whether through institutional practice or personal behaviour, the prevalence of heterosexism is likely to mean that LGB people feel excluded and unsafe. This effect can be mitigated by an actively welcoming and supportive environment.

Sexual orientation is defined as an individual's sexual orientation towards people of the same sex as her or him (gay or lesbian), people of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or people of both sexes (bisexual).

General duties

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
- Promote equality of opportunity between male and female pupils and between men and women
- Promote good relations

Specific duties

- From April 2007, prepare and publish a Gender Equality Scheme, showing how the school will meet its general and specific duties and set out its gender equality objectives, as well as its plans for stakeholder consultation and impact assessment
- Monitor the scheme annually and review it every three years.

Transgenderism and gender re-assignment

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Gender re-assignment is the process a transgender person goes through to change sex.

Approval

Approval date: May 2013

Review date: May 2018