



Equality Policy

Status	Recommended
Audience	Governors, Head teachers, Teachers, Parents and Students
Issued	September 2016

THE PRESCOTSCHOOL EQUALITY POLICY

Policy Approved: September 2016
Implementation Date: September 2016

“Homophobic comments or statements will not be tolerated in The Prescott School. If reported, those involved will be actively challenged and dealt with swiftly and robustly. Those involved will be offered support, guidance and education.”

INTRODUCTION

We understand that the Equality Act 2010 combines and builds upon the existing legislation covering discrimination and promotion of equality of opportunity.

We recognise that this Act brings together into one Act those areas now known as ‘protected characteristics’ that qualify for protection from discrimination such as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

We believe that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We are opposed to any direct or indirect discrimination against individuals or groups whatever their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We all have a responsibility to ensure equality permeates in to all aspects of school life and that everyone is treated equally irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We want everyone connected with this school to feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

We have high expectations of all pupils and we aim to provide them with every opportunity to succeed by providing the highest standards of teaching and learning. We are opposed to any member of the school personnel or others connected with the school being victimised, harassed or bullied by another based on assumptions about their status in the afore mentioned categories or on any other grounds. Also, we will not discriminate against anyone because of their political affiliation.

In order to achieve the aims of this policy we will take measures of positive action to encourage or facilitate the employment or training of minority or disadvantaged groups as we recognise that the avoidance of discrimination is not sufficient in ensuring that equality exists in this school.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

THE POLICY – OVERVIEW

- To introduce and put into practice the Equality Act 2010 that combines and builds upon the existing legislation covering discrimination and promotion of equality of opportunity.
- To treat everyone equally irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other protected characteristic.
- To work with other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

PROCEDURES

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is embedded into the culture of the school;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated Equalities governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;
- organised training for governors in order to ensure that all governors are aware of their legal responsibilities under equality legislation;
- has the responsibility to monitor achievement of equality targets;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will:

- ensuring that this policy is embedded into the culture of the school;
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality inclusion and community cohesion;
- recording and dealing with incidents of racism, bullying and other inappropriate behaviour;

- seeking advice from appropriate agencies in order to ensure that this policy is kept up to date;
- ensure equal opportunities is covered in the school improvement plan, in all subject policies and curriculum plans;
- regularly reporting to the Governing Body on the standards achieved by different groups within the school;
- recording, reporting and addressing all racial incidents;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the Nominated Governor

The Nominated Governor will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and the coordinator;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- report to the Governing Body every term;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- act as positive role models in order to promote equality throughout the school community;
- abide by and adhere to this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination and unequal treatment to the Senior

Leadership Team;

- maintain an overall school ethos of respect and tolerance for one another;
- promote equality, inclusion and good community relations;
- challenge inappropriate language behaviour;
- tackle bias and stereotyping;
- insist on good pupil conduct;
- act as role models;
- be alert to signs of racial harassment and bullying;
- have high expectations of all pupils;
- carefully monitor all groups of pupils to ensure that they make progress and achieve their targets;
- provide a stimulating, relevant and exciting curriculum that will motivate and enthuse all students;
- use a variety of teaching methods to ensure effective learning takes place for all pupils;
- promote equality through curriculum planning;
- ensure planning is differentiated in order to provide full access for all pupils;
- create a positive classroom ethos and is welcoming to both sexes;

- ensure pupils feel valued and have individual targets;
- open to the views of pupils
- attend appropriate training sessions;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community

Role of Pupils

Pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- recognise that they have a role and responsibility to promote equality, inclusion and good community relations;
- challenge inappropriate language behaviour;
- tackle bias and stereotyping;
- work to promote anti-bullying strategies;
- respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment and understand the action needed to report these
- learn to take pride in their work;
- produce work of a high standard;
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- participate fully in all lessons;
- participate in discussions concerning progress and attainment;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- talk to others without shouting and will use language which is neither abusive nor offensive;
- hand in homework properly completed and on time;
- wear correct uniform
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys

Role of the School Council

The School Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy with the Governing Body;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
- organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body

Recruitment Process

We are an Equal Opportunities employer and we adhere to the principles of equal opportunity in all aspects of the recruitment process. We welcome applications for vacant posts from appropriately qualified persons regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Complaints

The complaints procedures will be used to deal with any discriminatory complaint from any member of the school personnel. Any case of harassment will be dealt with by the school's disciplinary procedure.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

Training

We ensure all school personnel have equal chances of training, career development and promotion. Periodic training will be organised for all school personnel so that they are kept up to date with new information and guide lines concerning equal opportunities.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

REVIEW

The Reviewing of this policy will take place at the start of each academic year.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Annually (or when the need arises) the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the Governors.