

Sixpenny Handley First School

Equal Opportunities Policy

Equality of opportunity is concerned with justice for all, raising expectations and enabling each individual to fulfil his or her potential. Equal opportunities is freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, language, gender, class, lifestyle, cultural background, age, sexual orientation or disability.

AIMS

At Sixpenny Handley First School we shall aim to;

- Value each individual who comes through our door
- Nurture a mutual respect for all and encourage a positive attitude towards all members of society
- Develop in pupils and staff a commitment against racism, sexism, class distinction, ageism and discrimination on the grounds of disability or special needs
- Avoid stereotyping of any kind

PUTTING OUR AIMS INTO PRACTICE

We will strive to organise our school in a way that the learning environment upholds our belief of equal opportunity. We will try to ensure that;

- Positive visual images are given for people of both sexes and ethnic groups, with or without disabilities
- Collective Worship themes, topics and displays which draw on a wide range of sources are included
- Literature and multi media which reflect the variety of people, homes and families are provided
- Songs, rhymes, music and musical instruments from a wide range of cultures are experienced
- Resources for imaginative play which allow children to explore a range of roles are available, including those of the other sex and cultures
- Activity areas are arranged in a way which do not restrict access for children or adults with disabilities
- Racist language is categorically rejected
- Attention is paid to spelling names correctly at all times
- That bi-lingualism is seen as an asset
- Value the Traveller culture and lifestyle
- We do not regard the lack of fluency in English as an indication of poor potential
- Assumptions are not made about a child's potential based on home circumstances or social class
- No pupil will be excluded from receiving the curriculum or privileges on the basis of gender
- That staff, parents and pupils understand that boys and girls should display equally high standards of behaviour
- That the behaviour of any one child does not prevent other children from accessing and enjoying our learning environment
- That we give our time fairly to each child, ensuring that all children are treated equally and fairly
- That children with special educational needs will not be removed from assemblies more than is absolutely necessary
- That children with physical disabilities must have access to all tools and instruments and given appropriate support
- That all policies will reflect the equal opportunity aspect within them

We will encourage parent/carer involvement regardless of gender and background in all aspects of school life.

We ensure that the school's recruitment and selection procedures are based on good equal opportunities practice in accordance with the Local Authority's Equal Opportunities in Employment Policy.

We regularly review the professional development of all staff within the school.

We recognise the importance of positive role models, both in terms of gender and ethnic origin.

We recognise every member of our team, regardless of role, is of equal importance.

This policies aims and practices should be seen across the curriculum and in every aspect of school life.