



Discovery Schools
Academy Trust



Merrydale Junior School

Equality & Diversity Statement

Headteacher: Catriona Mugglestone

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Policy Review Date:	26/11/2023	Catriona Mugglestone	<i>C Mugglestone</i> 26/11/2020
Ratified by Advisory Board:			
Lesley Butcher	<i>Lesley Butcher</i>	26/11/2020	

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Monitor and Review

Every three years, we will review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.

Legal Duties

As a school we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination,
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

We understand the principal of the act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity.

A protected characteristic under the act covers the groups listed below:

- age (for employees only),
- disability
- race (includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality)
- gender (including issues of transgender)
- gender reassignment
- maternity and pregnancy
- religion and belief (includes lack of belief)
- sexual identity
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (for employees)

To meet our general duties, listed above, the law requires us to do some specific duties to demonstrate how we meet the general duties. These are to:

- **Publish equality Information – to demonstrate compliance with the general duty across its functions however we will not publish any information that can specifically identify any child or employee of the school**
- **Prepare and publish equality objectives**

To do this we will collect data related to the protected characteristics above and analyse this data to determine our focus for our equality objectives. The data will be assessed across our core provisions as a school. This will include the following functions:

- Admissions
- Attendance
- Attainment
- Exclusions
- Prejudice related incidents

Our objectives will detail how we will ensure equality is applied to the services listed above however where we find evidence that other functions have a significant impact on any particular group we will include work in this area.

We acknowledge our responsibilities as an employer and will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 in regard to the range of functions associated with being an employer.

We also welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.

We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

In fulfilling our legal obligations, we will:

- Recognise and respect diversity
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of belonging
- Observe good equalities practice, including staff recruitment, retention and development.
- Aim to reduce and remove existing inequalities and barriers.
- Consult and involve widely
- Strive to ensure that society will benefit

Our Ethos/mission

Vision and Values:

- To enable all children to become respectful and responsible individuals
- To work in partnership with parents and the wider community
- To provide a curriculum that motivates and excites
- To inspire children to become independent and confident learners
- To develop aspirational lifelong learners

At Merrydale we aim to provide a safe, caring learning environment for all; working together with you as families and the community whilst delivering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum celebrating the diversity of our world.

Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

This school is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice related discrimination may fair less well in the education system. We provide both our pupils and staff with an awareness of the impact of prejudice in order to prevent any incidents. If incidents still occur, we address them immediately and report them to the Local Authority using their guidance material. The Local Authority or Discovery Schools Academy Trust may provide some support.

Responsibility

We believe that promoting Equality is the whole schools responsibility:

School Community	Responsibility
Advisory Board	Involving and engaging the whole school community in identifying and understanding equality barriers and in the setting of objectives to address these.
Headteacher /Principal	As above including: Promoting key messages to staff, parents and pupils about equality and what is expected of them and can be expected from the school in carrying out its day to day duties. Ensure that staff have appropriate skills to deliver equality, including pupil awareness. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.
Senior Management Team	To support the Head / Principal as above Ensure fair treatment and access to services and opportunities. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.
Teaching Staff	Help in delivering the right outcomes for pupils. Uphold the commitment made to pupils and parents/carers on how they can be expected to be treated. Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum Ensure that you are aware of your responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.
Non-Teaching Staff	Support the school and the governing body in delivering a fair and equitable service to all stakeholders Uphold the commitment made by the Headteacher/Principal on how pupils and parents/carers can be expected to be treated Support colleagues within the school community Ensure that you are aware of your responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents
Parents	Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the governing body of actions that can be taken to eradicate these Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment given to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.
Pupils	Supporting the school to achieve the commitment made to tackling inequality. Uphold the commitment made by the Headteacher on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated.
Local Community Members	Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the governing body of actions that can be taken to eradicate these

School Community	Responsibility
	Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment made to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.

We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Single Equality Policy and our published equality information and equality objectives by publishing them on the schools website.

Complaints

Complaints with regard to this policy will be dealt with via the school's complaints procedure, a copy of which is available from the school office.

Further guidance for parents and carers and school governors/advisory board members on the Equality Act 2010 can be found on the Government website or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>