

Orleans Primary School



Single Equality Policy

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Signed (Chair of Governors / Committee)		Date
Signed (Headteacher)		Date

The name of the designated person is **Phoebe du Parcq (Headteacher)**

The Chair of Governors: **Alex Axiom**

1. Introduction and Rationale

Orleans Primary School is a positive, supportive and caring environment, in which we aim to make everyone feel valued and secure. Our School is a dynamic place, full of fun and passion for all aspects of learning, where everyone is inspired to work their hardest to achieve high standards and fulfil their potential. Our school is at the heart of our local community and we aim for children to have an awareness of the world which encourages respect for everyone's needs, beliefs and cultures. Orleans Primary School strives to develop happy, healthy, confident individuals, who are well motivated, with the skills and knowledge to make their unique contribution to the world.

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination (either direct or indirect), harassment and victimisation on the grounds of these specific characteristics: age, disability, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity. From this point onwards, these are referred to as protected characteristics. This means that schools cannot discriminate against pupils or staff or treat them less favourably due to any of these characteristics.

The Act requires all public organisations, including schools, to comply with the **Public Sector Equality Duty** and to plan and work towards fulfilling **two specific duties**:

Firstly, The Public Sector Equality Duty or "general duty": requires all public organisations, including schools to

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

Secondly, "specific duties":

This requires all public organisations, including schools to

1. Publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty
2. Publish Equality objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable

Appendix 1 is a checklist of key equality considerations.

Appendix 2 shows the school's Equality Objectives in an Equality Action Plan, which is updated on a yearly basis.

Appendix 3 is a flowchart of how an incident is identified

This policy describes how the school is meeting these statutory duties, is in line with the Equality Act, and provides guidance to staff and visitors about our approach to promoting equality.

We believe that the Equality Act provides a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. It also ensures that we continue to tackle issues of disadvantage and underachievement in different groups. Although this policy is the key document for information about our approach to equalities in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we

ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act are also available through our school development plan, the school website and our newsletters. At Orleans, we promote positive discrimination. There are also references in our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies, our Admissions Policy and our SEND Policy, as well as in the minutes of Governors meetings and School Council meetings. The Equality Act also applies to schools in their role as employers and the ways in which we comply with this are found in our Recruitment Policy.

2. Our approach to equality is based on the following key principles:

- 1. All pupils and staff at Orleans Primary School are of equal value.** Whether or not they are disabled, whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status, whatever their gender or sexual orientation or if they are proposing to or are in the process of undergoing gender reassignment, whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background or age. This also applies to pregnant women and those on statutory maternity leave. As a school we also ensure that no child is disadvantaged in their learning due to their socio-economic background.
- 2. We recognise, respect and value differences and understand that diversity is a strength.** We take account of differences and strive to remove barriers and disadvantages, which people may face in relation to the nine protected characteristics. We believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit our school.
- 3. We foster positive attitudes and relationships.** We actively promote positive attitudes and foster mutual respect between different groups and communities.
- 4. We foster a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.** We want all members of our school community to feel that they belong within the school and the wider community and to feel that they are respected and able to participate fully in school life.
- 5. We observe good equalities practice for our staff.** We ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in all aspects of their work, including recruitment, promotion and continuing professional development.
- 6. We have the highest expectations of all our children.** We expect that all pupils will be able to make good progress and achieve their highest potential.
- 7. We work to raise standards for all pupils, including the most vulnerable.** We believe that improving the quality of education for the most vulnerable groups of pupils helps to raise standards and increase enjoyment of learning across the whole school.

3. Definitions

The Equality Act defines four kinds of unlawful behaviour: direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation. According to the Equality Act, the definition of these as relating to a school are as follows:

- Direct Discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favorably than others because of a protected characteristic. An example of this would be if a school were to refuse to let a pupil be a member of the School Council due to a disability.
- Indirect Discrimination can occur when a condition, rule policy or practice applies to everybody but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic. For example, if the school had a blanket policy on banning dogs from the school site including seeing/hearing dogs or Guide Dogs.
- Harassment is unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person.
- Victimisation is treating someone unfavourably because they have taken some form of action relating to the Equality Act. For example, making a complaint.

4. What we are doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- We take account of equality issues in relation to admissions and exclusions.
- We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum and by creating an environment which fosters respect for all.
- Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent and we do not discriminate against pupils by treating them less favourably on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics.
- The way we provide education for our pupils and the way we provide access for pupils to facilities and services.
- We are aware of the Reasonable Adjustment duty for disabled pupils – designed to enhance access and participation to the level of non-disabled pupils and to stop disabled children being placed at a disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers. We ensure we provide access to benefit, facility or service to all pupils.
- The Headteacher ensures that all appointment panels give due regard to this policy, so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or training opportunities.
- We take seriously the need to consider the equality implications when we develop, adapt and review any policy or procedure and whenever we make significant decisions about the day-to-day life of the school.

Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance

Our Behaviour Policy takes full account of the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustments for pupils with a disability. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from school for evidence of over-representation from different groups and take action promptly to address concerns.

The school challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality relating to the protected characteristics.

We keep a record of different race-related incidents on CPoms and provide a report to the governors, where appropriate, about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how we have dealt with them.

What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- We know the needs of our school population very well and collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and to identify targets to achieve improvements.
- We have procedures, working in partnership with parents and carers, to identify children who have a disability.
- We collect data and monitor the progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils and use this data to support school improvement. We take action to close any gaps (for example for learners making slow progress in acquiring age-appropriate English and maths skills).

We collect and analyse data:

- On the school population by gender and ethnicity
- On the percentage of pupils identified as having an additional educational need and/or disability, and by their principal need or disability by year group – in terms of ethnicity, gender and proficiency in English
- On inequalities of outcome and participation, related to ethnicity, gender and disability and proficiency in English

What we are doing to advance equality in the classroom

- We use a range of teaching strategies to ensure that we meet the needs of all pupils
- We provide support to pupils at risk of under-achieving
- We are alert to and actively combat the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender and disability.
- We avoid language which runs the risk of placing a ceiling on any pupil's achievement or which seeks to define their potential as learners, such as 'less able'.

In addition to avoiding or minimising any possible negative impact of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise their positive impact by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between, for example:

- disabled and non-disabled people
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- girls and boys

We ensure equality of access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum, removing barriers to participation where necessary.

What we are doing to foster good relations

- We prepare our pupils for life in a diverse society and ensure that there are activities across the curriculum which promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.
- We teach about difference and diversity and about the impact of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination through PSHE and citizenship and throughout the curriculum.
- We are a UNICEF 'Rights Respecting' School
- We use materials and resources, which reflect the diversity of the school, the local community and the wider population in terms of race, gender, sexual identity and disability, avoiding stereotyping.

- We promote a whole-school ethos and values which challenge prejudice-based discriminatory language, attitudes and behaviour.

Other ways in which we address equality issues

We have a rolling programme for reviewing all of our school policies and when a policy is reviewed, it is done in relation to equalities and their impact on the progress, safety and well-being of our pupils.

In order to ensure that the work we are doing on equalities meets the needs of the whole school community we:

- Review relevant feedback from the annual parents' questionnaire, parents' evenings and parents' forums. Governors attend our parent forums and equality is a regular item on the agenda.
- Collate and analyse responses from staff surveys and training events
- Review feedback and responses from the children, the School Council, PSHE lessons and whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school.
- Analyse issues raised in Annual Reviews or reviews of progress on EHCPs and Individual Education Plans
- Ensure that we secure responses and feedback at Governing Board meetings and from the Governing Boards working groups.

5. Publishing Equality Objectives

The objectives which we identify represent our school's priorities and are the outcome of a careful review of and analysis of data and other evidence. They also take into account national and local priorities and issues. We evaluate our success in meeting the Public Service Equality Duties by the extent to which we achieve improved outcomes for different groups. This informs our discussions about the Equality Objectives.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

We expect all members of the school community and visitors to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

The Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.

Every governing body committee keeps aspects of the school's commitment to the Equality Duty under review, for example in terms of standards, curriculum, admissions, exclusions, personnel issues and the school environment. Governors annually review the Equality Policy and evaluate the success of the school's Equalities Work taking account of quantitative evidence (e.g. data) and qualitative evidence (e.g. surveys)

Headteacher and School Team

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing the policy
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support
- Taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination

All teaching and support staff will:

- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- Challenge prejudice and discrimination
- Deal fairly and professionally with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- Plan and deliver a curriculum and lessons that reflect the school's principles, for example by providing materials which give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability
- Maintain the highest expectations of success for all pupils
- Support different groups of pupils through differentiated planning and teaching, especially those who may (sometimes temporarily) find aspects of academic learning difficult
- Keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work

We ensure that the whole school community knows about the policy, objectives and data through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications.

We publish on the school's website copies of relevant policies and guidance, including those on behaviour, anti-bullying and special educational needs.

We will provide training and guidance on Equalities for all staff new to the school as part of their induction. We go through the principal expectations and duties of the Equality Act at a whole staff meeting at the start of the school year.

Visitors

All visitors to the school, including parents and carers, are expected to support our commitment to equalities and to comply with the duties set out in this policy.

Equal Opportunities for staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff. We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and to the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

- All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.
- As an employer we strive to eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and to actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.
- We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and we comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.
- We ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

7. Disseminating the policy

This Equality Policy, along with the Equality Objectives and data, is available

- On the school website

- As part of induction for new staff

- The school collects information on race, disability and gender regarding pupils and staff, e.g. pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions and staff training. This information is used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities the school provides
- The school analyses pupil achievement in terms of progress and standards for different groups and takes action when trends or patterns indicate a need.
- The school sets Equality Objectives to improve outcomes for vulnerable pupils and monitors progress on reaching these objectives
- The school ensures that all staff understand and implement the key requirements of the Equality Policy
- The curriculum includes opportunities for all pupils to understand and celebrate diversity and difference
- All groups of pupils are encouraged to participate in school life and make a positive contribution, e.g. through class assemblies and the school council
- The school monitors bullying and harassment of pupils in terms of difference and diversity (i.e. different groups) and takes appropriate action
- Visual displays and multimedia resources reflect the diversity of the school community
- Diversity is promoted positively in lessons, displays, discussions, class assemblies and whole school events, through minority ethnic, disabled, male and female role models and those from vulnerable groups
- The school takes part in annual events such as Black History Month to raise awareness of issues around race, disability and gender
- The school environment is accessible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school – including the acoustic environment
- The Governing Body is representative of the community it serves. Procedures for the election of parent governors are accessible to all
- We provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.
- We include the contribution of different cultures to world history and which promote positive images of people
- We provide opportunities for pupils to listen to a range of opinions and empathise with different experiences
- Staff do not use the word ‘guys’ in reference to the children; instead they use the word ‘team’
- Toilets are available for any gender and are not just designated for boys or girls.
- Staff use ‘parents’ rather than ‘mum’ or ‘dad’ when communicating verbally and in writing with parents and children

Appendix 2

Orleans Primary School - Compliance with the Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED)

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a Single Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which applies to public sector bodies including maintained schools and academies. The Act introduces the concept of 'protected characteristics' which are given protection under the Act – race, disability, gender, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

This combined equality duty came into effect in April 2011 and replaces the Gender, Disability and Race Equality Duties.

Aims of the PSED Act (General Duties for schools)

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

For schools this means:

- Decision makers in schools must be aware of the duty to have 'due regard' when making a decision or taking an action and must assess whether it may have implications for people with particular protected characteristics.
- Schools should consider equality implications before and at the time that they develop policy and take decisions, not as an afterthought. Schools will need to keep them under review on a continuing basis.
- The PSED has to be integrated into the carrying out of the school's functions and the analysis necessary to comply with the duty has to be carried out rigorously.
- Schools cannot delegate responsibility for carrying out the duty to anyone else.

The specific duties required of schools:

- To publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and
- To prepare and publish equality objectives.

How Orleans Primary School Complies with the Equalities Act 2010

- **Elimination of discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act.**

The vision statement for our school clearly states that our philosophy is to provide a happy, stimulating and secure community for every child. This, in conjunction with a rich and challenging learning experience, will ensure that **all children** reach their full potential, both emotionally and physically, and are completely prepared to take their place in our diverse world. Everyone who works in our school is valued as an individual and staff work as a team, sharing expertise, knowledge and skills. Orleans strongly values the partnership between home, school and community.

We do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Our Anti-bullying Statement (written by our school

council) aims to ensure that children can recognise what bullying is and know what to do if they see or experience it. All concerns about bullying are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. All incidents in or out of class are recorded on CPoms.

We actively tackle discrimination against those protected characteristics identified in the PSED and promote equal opportunities and good relations between and amongst all. We strive to promote the individuality of all our pupils, for example through celebrating differing achievements. We are committed to ensuring that positive action is taken to redress the balance of inequality, which may exist.

The following policies support the school's compliance:

- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying (including Anti bullying Statement)
- Accessibility Plan

As a school, we take positive action to challenge and prevent racism, and to prepare pupils for life in a multicultural society. The school takes action to provide equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups. Any racist behaviour is challenged and reported.

We are an equal opportunities employer. We are non-discriminative in employment and promotion. We apply objective criteria and recruitment procedures to ensure that we employ the best-suited candidate to the post. We welcome applications from all.

- Fostering good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Orleans promotes different values throughout the school by means of the curriculum, assemblies based on appropriate themes to support our values e.g. responsibility, partnerships, self-esteem and respect
- PSHE curriculum focuses on anti-bullying, relationships, friendship etc.
- RE curriculum which emphasises understanding other religions and cultures

Our Equalities Objectives 2022-2023 will continue so that they can be embedded;

- To increase the progress of the SEN and PPG pupils throughout the school through targeted in class teaching and planned intervention support.
- To continue to embed equality, diversity and inclusion and to continue to tackle discrimination throughout school with particular reference to LGBTQ and racism.
- Through targeted professional development develop staff understanding of relevant mental health issues and train staff in using strategies to support pupils with mental health concerns.

Review of Equalities Objectives

During the last academic year, Orleans had three objectives, all of which were key objectives in the School Development Plan. These are listed below together with how they were met and the impact on the children's progress throughout the year.

Objective	Actions carried out throughout the year	Impact
<p>To continue to embed equality, diversity and inclusion and to continue to tackle discrimination throughout school with particular reference to LGBTQ and racism.</p>	<p>Developed a school culture where any unacceptable comments were challenged by both senior leaders and other staff.</p>	<p>Staff feel confident about their life choices. The children are open and informed.</p>
	<p>RSE training / Christopher Winter Project - specific books to support our curriculum in class e.g. same sex relationships, differences. Flip charts and pictures used in lessons reflect diversity.</p>	<p>The curriculum has LGBTQ+ resources which recognise and validate family diversity.</p>
	<p>Staff attended LGBT training sessions directly relating to supporting staff in education.</p>	<p>Conversations about life choices that they or others make.</p>
	<p>Robust monitoring and identification of vulnerable families and children including the development of internal Team Around the Child meetings.</p>	<p>The early intervention focus for these families is having a positive effect on children's enjoyment of school and ultimately their progress.</p>
	<p>Staff training on British Values given by PSHE Lead.</p>	<p>Staff fully aware of where these values appear in their year group curriculum subjects so that they can highlight them to the children.</p>
<p>To increase the progress of the SEN and PPG pupils throughout the school through targeted in class teaching.</p>	<p>The school has a strategic plan in place, which aims to improve outcomes for pupils, and ensures resources are used effectively.</p> <p>Targeted training for all staff throughout this academic year, which has developed their understanding and empathy, has resulted in better outcomes for pupils. The school has invested in Target Tracker as an assessment programme, which eases the way of tracking groups of pupils.</p> <p>The school has worked with the families of LAC and adopted children, organising regular meetings with the Virtual School Head.</p> <p>Staff have undergone professional training with regards to children's mental health and will continue to receive training in the new academic year on counselling strategies.</p>	<p>Targeted interventions for pupils have resulted in higher attainment and greater progress.</p> <p>Staff have higher expectations of these groups of pupils and track their progress highly effectively; carrying out a gap analysis and then planning clear next steps in teaching and learning.</p> <p>The school has developed a trusting relationship with specific families and staff are building a greater understanding of the challenges facing these children.</p> <p>Whole school community is aware of the broad scope of mental health and early warning signs to look out for in children.</p>

To develop staff understanding of mental health and train staff in using strategies to support pupils with mental health concerns.

Staff have been kept up to date with Mental Health training through annual CPD. There are planned opportunities to ensure that pupils have a range of activities outside a lunchtime to improve the lunchtime experience and there is an internal lunch club in place for the older pupils.

There is a greater knowledge within school regarding mental health and how to support pupils. Staff know and understand the appropriate vocabulary to use and who to report any worries or concerns to.

Appendix 3 - Procedure for Reporting Incidents

It is very important that we log, investigate and report on the number and type of incidents which occur of a discriminatory nature against pupils because of their race, sexual orientation, gender, disability, religion or belief. Once it is clear that an incident has occurred it is essential that it is dealt with immediately and that the details are recorded accurately directly after the incident so that they can be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken. Staff should refer to the flowchart below when an incident occurs.

