



SINGLE EQUALITIES POLICY

Summer 2014

Manager

Mrs S A Wilson

Review date – Summer 2018

This policy reflects the Equality Act 2010 which harmonises and replaces previous legislation including the Race Relations Act 1976, Disability Discrimination Act 1995, Gender Recognition Act 2004 and Sex Discrimination Act 1975. The policy therefore supersedes all previous school policies on Disability, Ethnicity (i.e., Race) and Gender. Through this policy Gayton Junior School will fulfil its public duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in connection with disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual identity, and where appropriate, age (applicable to employees only). The guiding principles in this policy refer to all individuals and therefore are equally applicable to pupils, staff, governors in addition to visitors to Gayton Junior School.

Legal framework

Duties as identified in the Equality Act 2010 and its Schedules. There are nine equality strands (known as Protected Characteristics):

disability;
ethnicity (including Gypsy and Traveller groups);
gender;
gender identity and transgender;
faith, religion and belief;
marriage and civil partnership;
sexual orientation (homophobia);
pregnancy and maternity;
age.

Each relates to direct discrimination, discrimination by association, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination; harassment and victimization. Gayton Junior School will seek to achieve positive action in respect of the Act.

It should be noted that all schools have a duty to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Duties, and failure to do so could result in legal action against the school's Governing Body. Employees of the school acting on behalf of the Governing Body are also liable for their own discriminatory actions.

Good Practice

1. We strive to achieve a cohesive community and expect that children respect one another and behave with respect to one another, and that their parents feel fully engaged in the school.
2. We aim to enhance a wider sense of community locally, as well as in the context of the UK and the World communities.
3. We support 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. Through our policies and actions we undertake to ensure that every child and young person is healthy, safe, is able to enjoy and achieve in their learning experience, and is able to contribute to the wider community.
4. We consider it prudent and sensible to maintain the practice of logging racist incidents, although there is no longer a request for this from the LA. We monitor and log incidents that discriminate against children and young people or adults in our school with protected

characteristics, e.g., homophobic bullying. We monitor and log all bullying incidents, including those directed towards those with special educational needs.

Guiding principles

In fulfilling the legal obligations and establishing our school ethos, we are guided by 8 principles:

Principle 1: All learners are of equal value

We see all learners and potential learners, and their parents and carers, as of equal value:

- whether or not they are disabled,
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status,
- whatever their gender or gender identity,
- whatever their sexual identity.

Principle 2: We recognise and respect difference

Treating people equally (Principle 1 above) does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people may face, in relation to:

- disability, so that reasonable adjustments are made;
- ethnicity, so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised;
- gender, so that the different needs and experiences of girls and boys, women and men are recognised;
- sexual identity.

Principle 3: We foster positive attitudes and relationships and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging

Policies, procedure and activities promote:

- positive attitudes and actions towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people;
- positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status, and an absence of prejudice related bullying and incidents;

- mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, women and men and an absence of sexual and homophobic harassment.

Principle 4: We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development

Policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion and in continuing professional development:

- whether or not they are disabled;
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status;
- whatever their gender and sexual identity and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.

Principle 5: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

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

- disabled and non-disabled;
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds;
- girls and boys, women and men;
- gay people as well as heterosexual.

Principle 6: We consult and involve widely

People affected by a policy or activity should be consulted and involved in the design of new policies and in the review of existing ones. Consultation involves:

- disabled and non-disabled;
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds;
- girls and boys, women and men;
- gay people as well as heterosexual.

Principle 7: We address prejudice and prejudice related bullying

We oppose all forms of prejudice which stand in the way of fulfilling the legal duties listed above:

- prejudices around disability and special educational needs;
- prejudices around racism and xenophobia, including those that are directed against religious groups and communities, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and those that are directed against Travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum;
- prejudice reflecting sexism or homophobia.

Principle 8: Society as a whole should benefit

Policies and activities should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion and greater participation in public life of:

- disabled and non-disabled;
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds;
- girls and boys, women and men;
- gay people as well as heterosexual.

Curriculum

Curriculum information will also be evaluated by looking specifically at equality groups in addition to the standard analysis conducted by the school and adjustments as appropriate to ensure that equality groups are supported positively.

All other data relating to whole school monitoring will encompass scrutiny of equality information so that groups are supported positively.

When it is reviewed, each curriculum subject or area will ensure that teaching and learning will reflect our Guiding Principles as set out above.

Staff and Governors

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

The Personnel and Pupils Committee has the role of monitoring the implementation of this policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

The Headteacher has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of this policy.

All staff are expected to:

- adhere to this policy;
- promote equality and inclusion in their classrooms, amongst colleagues and with visitors to the school;
- deal with any prejudice related incidents that may occur;
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect our Guiding Principles ;
- provide and analyse quantitative and qualitative data that supports better understanding of equality groups and any issues that may arise, e.g., attendance, bullying, exclusion;
- undertake or support Equality Impact Assessment (Equality Analysis) processes;
- attend appropriate training that enables Gayton Junior School to keep up-to-date with equality issues.

All staff and Governors have access to training and a selection of resources which discuss and explain the concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion. We value the opportunity to take a holistic approach in fulfilling our Equality Duties.

All staff and Governors will exercise their Safeguarding responsibilities in relation to equality matters and ensure that any bullying or challenging of Human Rights is addressed immediately.

Gayton Junior School is opposed to all forms of prejudice that could act as a barrier to achieving our legal duties and a cohesive community. These include:

- disability;
- special educational needs;
- racism and xenophobia;
- gender and transgender;
- religious groups and communities;
- Travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum;
- sexism and homophobia.

Equality Information *(to be published on the school website)*

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims and they are to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who have a shared characteristic and those who do not

The Leadership Team and Governors at Gayton Junior School will annually review how well we achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sexual orientation, religion and belief and sexual orientation.)

Whole school pupil related data from Raiseonline 2013

Gayton Junior School has 364 pupils. Just under half of the pupils are from a White British background, with a 57.8% coming from minority ethnic groups. This is well above national average. 26.8% of pupils are reported to have English as an additional language, also above average. The number of boys and girls in the school is more or less even. The number of students who take free school meals is average at 26.8%. The percentage of children at school action and school action plus just above average.

There have been no exclusions since December 2012.

Attendance levels are above average. In 2013, the percentage of authorised absence was 3.9%, compared to national at 4.8%.

Overall student levels of attainment are above average. In addition, we have data across a range of characteristics indicating progress of specific groups. A significant majority of these show achievement above the national average.

End of Key Stage 2 Data Evidence from Raiseonline 2013

The performance of the boys was just above the girls for the **combined maths, reading and writing** and above boys nationally. Girls were above girls nationally.

The performance of our 28 FSM pupils was below our non FSM pupils for the **combined maths, reading and writing** but above other FSM pupils nationally.

The performance of our 22 EAL pupils was below our non EAL pupils for the **combined maths, reading and writing** but just above other EAL pupils nationally.

The performance of our 17 SEN pupils was well below our non SEN pupils for the **combined maths, reading and writing** and below other SEN pupils nationally.

Internal Monitoring

Having reviewed our behaviour management records, we have more boys (11) than girls (2) who need further support with their behaviour.

Equality Objectives

We aim to provide the highest possible education for all at Gayton Junior School. The ethos of our school clearly reflects our commitment to fully including, respecting and supporting all members of our school community whatever their cultural background, belief, gender, race or disability.

Having referred to and analysed our equality information we have set ourselves the following objectives:-

Objective 1 To ensure that the curriculum effectively supports the needs of all children, with particular reference to pupils with FSM, EAL and SEN.

This will be monitored by the Standards Committee

Objective 2 To decrease the number of boys whose behaviour needs monitoring.

This will be monitored by the Personnel and Pupils Committee