



***"Show me your way, Lord teach me your paths." Psalms (25.4)***

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY**

Almondsbury CE Primary School provides an education for all, acknowledging that the society within which we live is enriched by ethnic diversity, culture and faith of its citizens.

The primary focus of education is to increase life chances. We recognise, acknowledge and uphold the 9 protected characteristics of the Equalities Act 2010. We actively discourage discrimination in any form including age, disability, gender (including gender reassignment), sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion or belief and educational capability. We will actively promote an inclusive environment and ethos.

### **Aims of Equal Opportunities Policy**

Equality of opportunity is about providing equality and excellence for all in order to promote the highest possible standards of achievement. Equality of opportunity applies to all members of the school community; pupils, staff, governors, parents and community members.

**It is based on the following core values and ethos as expressed in this school's vision:**



***"Show me your way, Lord teach me your paths." Psalms (25.4)***

Almondsbury CE Primary School will help all members of the school community to:

- develop an understanding of the Christian values of respect, hope and love
- be happy, confident, collaborative and successful learners, developing a pride in personal achievement, whilst encouraging a passion for learning
- understand and express their own thoughts and feelings and to be sensitive to others
- be aware of the importance of a safe environment, foster and maintain a healthy lifestyle through emotional self-awareness and physical well-being enabling them to deal with challenging situations
- develop integrity, value and respect others, as part of the local community and within our diverse society
- gain optimum learning experiences, equipping children with the skills and knowledge needed for their future with a sense of self-responsibility

These aims are designed to ensure that the school meets the needs of all, taking account of the nine protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. It is important that in this school we value cultural diversity, meet the diverse needs of pupils to ensure inclusion and ensure that all pupils are prepared for full participation in a multi-ethnic society.

## Commitment to Equality

Almondsbury CE Primary School provides an education for all, acknowledging that the society within which we live is enriched by the ethnic diversity, culture and faith of its citizens.

Almondsbury CE Primary School strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the heritage and origins of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect. Pupils should be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity.

We recognise:

- the inclusive nature of the National Curriculum 2014 and the opportunities presented for encouraging 'respect for diversity'
- the inclusive nature of the school for all of the protected characteristics
- the importance of celebrating festivals from diverse faiths
- that minority ethnic groups including Gypsy Travellers, Refugees and Asylum Seekers and less visible minority groups eg Irish
- the important contribution immigrants and their descendants have made to Britain
- the importance of Global Citizenship
- the importance of strong home/school and wider community links
- our duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to promote race equality actively

The Governing Body will comment on how equality targets have been met (and what impact they have had on pupils, staff and parents, with the emphasis on the attainment of pupils).

The school will take steps to monitor and further develop good practice. Equality training will be part of the Induction & Staff Development programme for all teaching and ancillary staff, student teachers and governors.

We shall adhere to South Gloucestershire LA's guidance on Dealing with and Reporting Incidents using the Sentinel reporting system. All class teachers/tutors will be trained in the care and support of pupils who have experienced racial abuse.

The school will endeavour to ensure that the Governing Body & staff team reflects the local community it serves.

## Other related school policies

Racial equality is included as an explicit aim in the school prospectus and in all of the school's policies. *"That Local Authorities and school governors have the duty to create and implement strategies in school to prevent and address racism"* (Recommendation 68).

**An incident is** "any incident which is perceived to be offensive by the victim or any other person".

**All incidents regarding inequality will be logged by the Headteacher and reported to the Governing Body and the LA.**

## Leadership and Management

All the school policies reflect a commitment to equal opportunities, including race equality. The Governing Body and school management set a clear ethos, which reflects the school's commitment to equality for all members of the school community. The school promotes positive and proactive approaches to valuing and respecting diversity.

The school management will work in partnership with others to promote equality of opportunity, oppose all forms of oppressive behaviour, prejudice and discrimination. All staff contribute to the development and review of policy documents. The school ensures the involvement of governors and takes appropriate steps to enable the contribution of parents. Policies are evaluated to identify specific actions to address equality issues.

Teaching and curriculum development are monitored to ensure high expectations of all pupils and appropriate breadth of content in relation to the school and the wider community. The school monitors and evaluates its effectiveness in providing an appropriate curriculum for pupils of all backgrounds.

Each area of the curriculum is planned to incorporate the principles of equality and to promote positive attitudes to diversity. All subjects contribute to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all pupils. The content of the curriculum reflects and values diversity. It encourages pupils to explore bias and to challenge prejudice and stereotypes. Extracurricular activities and special events cater for the interests and capabilities of all pupils and take account of parental concerns related to religion and culture.

### **Staffing: Recruitment and Professional Development**

Almondsbury CE Primary School adheres to recruitment and selection procedures which are fair, equal, and in line with statutory duties and LA guidelines. Steps are taken to encourage people from under-represented groups to apply for positions at all levels in the school. Steps are taken to ensure that everyone associated with the school is informed of the contents of this policy. New staff are familiar with it as part of their induction programme.

The skills of all staff, including support and part-time staff, are recognised and valued. All staff are given status and support and are encouraged to share their knowledge. Staff handbooks and regular professional development activities are available for all staff members to support their practice in relation to this policy. Staff and visitors provide a wide range of role models and reflect the diversity of the local and wider community.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Teachers ensure that the classroom is an inclusive environment in which pupils feel all their contributions are valued. All pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum. Teaching is responsive to pupils' different learning styles and takes account of pupils' cultural backgrounds and linguistic needs. Teachers take positive steps to include all groups or individuals. Pupil grouping in the classroom is planned and varied. Allocations to teaching groups are kept under continual review and are analysed by ethnicity, gender and background.

### **Curriculum**

Curriculum planning takes account of the ethnicity, backgrounds and needs of all pupils.

The curriculum builds on pupils' starting points and is differentiated appropriately to ensure the inclusion of:

- boys and girls;
- pupils learning English as an additional language;
- pupils from minority ethnic groups;
- pupils who are most able;
- pupils with special educational needs;
- pupils who are looked after by the local authority;
- pupils who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion;
- social bias, and that assessment methods are valid.

The monitoring and analysing of pupil performance by gender, ethnicity and background enables the identification of groups of pupils where there are patterns of underachievement. The school ensures that action is taken to counter this.

Staff have very high expectations of all pupils and they continually challenge them to extend their learning and achieve higher standards. The school recognises and values all forms of achievement.

Self-assessment provides all pupils with opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning through regular reflection and feedback on their progress. Assessment is used to inform future learning. Staff use a range of methods and strategies to assess pupils' progress.

## **Assessment, Pupil Achievement and Progress**

All pupils have the opportunity to achieve their highest standards. Baseline assessment is used appropriately for all pupils. The school ensures that assessment is free of gender, cultural and social bias.

Clear procedures are in place to ensure that staff deal with all forms of bullying and harassment promptly, firmly and consistently. Actions taken are in line with relevant school policies.

Pupils, staff and parents are aware of the procedures for dealing with intolerant behaviour and that such behaviour is always unacceptable. Staff are trained to deal effectively with bullying, racist incidents, racial harassment and prejudice.

## **School Ethos**

Almondsbury CE Primary School opposes all forms of racism, harassment, prejudice and discrimination.

The school publicly supports diversity and actively promotes good personal and community relations. Diversity is recognised as having a positive role to play within the school.

Staff foster a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust among pupils from all ethnic groups.

The school caters for the dietary and dress requirements of different religious groups. The school enables pupils and staff to celebrate festivals and other events relevant to their particular faith and actively encourages all pupils to understand these.

## **Behaviour, Discipline and Exclusions**

Almondsbury CE Primary School expects high standards of behaviour from all pupils.

There are strategies to reintegrate long-term truants and excluded pupils, which address the needs of all pupils.

Suspensions and exclusions are monitored by gender, ethnicity, special educational need and background and action is taken in order to reduce any disparities between different groups of pupils. The school's procedures for disciplining pupils and managing behaviour are fair and applied equally to all. It is recognised that cultural background may affect behaviour. The school takes this into account when dealing with incidents of unacceptable behaviour. All staff operate consistent systems of rewards and discipline.

Pupils, staff and parents are aware of procedures for dealing with harassment. They know that any language or behaviour that is racist, sexist, homophobic or potentially damaging to any minority group is always unacceptable.

## **Personal Development and Pastoral Care**

Pastoral support takes account of religious and ethnic differences, and the experiences and needs of refugee and asylum seeker children.

The school provides appropriate support for pupils learning English as an additional language and encourages them to use their home and community languages. The school will take account of and meets the needs of Traveller pupils when required. All pupils are provided with appropriate learning, which will prepare them for their next steps in learning, transition points in EYFS, KS1 and end of KS2, as well as lifelong learning skills.

Work experience providers are required to demonstrate their commitment to equal opportunities.

Appropriate support is given to victims of harassment and intolerant behaviour, using the support of external agencies where appropriate. The perpetrators are dealt with in accordance with school policies and provided with relevant support to consider and modify their behaviour.

### **Admissions and Attendance**

The admissions process is monitored to ensure that it is administered fairly and consistently to all pupils, so that pupils from particular groups are not disadvantaged.

Comprehensive information about pupils' ethnicity, first language, religion, physical needs, diet etc. is included in all admissions forms. The school and families are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to pupil attendance and appropriate personnel who are aware of community issues always follow up absence. Provision is made for leave of absence for religious observance, which includes staff as well as pupils. Provision is made for pupils on extended leave so that they are able to continue with their learning. Attendance is monitored by gender, ethnicity, special educational need and background and action is taken in order to reduce any disparities between different groups of pupils.

### **Partnership with Parents and the Community**

Progress reports to parents are accessible and appropriate, in order to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to participate in the dialogue.

All parents are encouraged to participate at all levels in the full life of the school.

The school works in partnership with parents and the community to develop positive attitudes to diversity and to address specific incidents. The school takes steps to encourage the involvement and participation of under-represented groups of parents and sections of the community.

Information material for parents is easily accessible in user-friendly language and is available in languages and formats other than English as appropriate. Meetings for parents are made accessible for all. Parental involvement is monitored to ensure the participation of all groups.

Informal events are designed to include the whole community and at times may target minority or marginalised groups. The school's premises and facilities are equally available and accessible for use by all groups within the community.

### **Responsibilities**

The Governing Body and Headteacher will ensure that the school complies with all relevant equalities legislation.

The Governing Body and Headteacher will ensure that the policy and related procedures and strategies are implemented.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the policy.

The member of staff named below will be responsible for coordinating work in equal opportunities.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that it does not disadvantage particular sections of the community.

The member of staff responsible for Equal Opportunities will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy annually.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the Equalities Policy.

Member of staff responsible for Equal Opportunities: Paul Smith

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Date of Policy: June 2023

**Date of review of policy: Annually**

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