

Introduction

Robert Peel Primary School is committed to valuing diversity by providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families. We also value our staff and are committed to good employment practice.

Robert Peel Primary School seeks to ensure that no member of the school community, or any person through their contact with the school, will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of a protected characteristic. These include: race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, responsibility for children or other dependents, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, trade union or political activities, socio-economic background, living situation, or spent convictions.

In this we include all members of the extended school community - pupils, staff, Governors, parents and others from our local community. Partners, contractors and other visitors to the school are also expected to adhere to this policy.

School Vision

Our vision underpins every aspect of school life and our duty to treat everyone equally and promote diversity.

At Robert Peel Primary School our vision is to develop confident, resilient and independent learners who are able to communicate effectively with others. Our aim is for the children to be happy in all aspects of school life and for them to aspire to be the best they can be.

We will achieve this by creating a culture of independent learning and discovery that is stimulating and enjoyable for both children and staff. The children's views will be sought and valued and high expectations will ensure that all children achieve even when challenged.

Legal Framework

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy works in conjunction with the schools Single Equality Duty by responding to the introduction of the Equality Act 2010. This replaces all previous policies and legislation relating to Race Equality, Gender Equality and Disability Equality. This policy has been devised to enable Robert Peel Primary School to meet its duty by:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Fostering good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not
- We do this by:
- Providing a secure environment in which all of our children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued
- Including and valuing the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity
- Providing positive non-stereotyping information about gender roles, diverse ethnic and cultural groups and people with disabilities
- Reviewing our knowledge and understanding of issues of anti-discriminatory practice, promoting equality and valuing diversity
- Making inclusion a thread that runs through all of the activities of Robert Peel Primary School



Aim

Equality and Diversity is about making a difference to the lives of the people we serve, treating all people with dignity and respect, and recognising the value of each individual. We are committed to ensuring that our services meet the varied and individual needs of children and young people in our school, that our employment practices are fair and promote equality and that we respect the wide variety of lifestyles and cultures, locally and nationally.

We aim to prepare children and young people for living within a diverse society with increasing global connections and controversial issues.

We work hard to build strong and trusting relationships with our pupils and their families in order to harness their engagement and enjoyment in all aspects of school life. We recognise that pupils and family members may experience a range of different needs during different times in their lives and we endeavour to meet these needs by working in close partnership with relevant agencies.

Guiding Principles

Principle 1: All learners are of equal value

All learners and potential learners are of equal value and benefit equally from school policies, practices and programmes, whatever their ability, ethnicity or national identity, religious background, gender or cultural identity.

Principle 2: Relevant differences are recognised

Treating people equally can mean treating them differently. Policies, practices and programmes do not discriminate, but may be differentiated to take account of differences of life experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers 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, and women and men, are recognised
- Religion, belief or faith background
- Sexual identity

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

Policies and programmes promote:

- Positive attitudes 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, and women and men, and an absence of sexual and homophobic harassment.



Principle 4: Staff recruitment, retention and development

- Steps are taken to positively promote equality, especially where there is evidence of inequality and to ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in recruitment, professional development and promotion:
- 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: Reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist

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

- Disabled and non-disabled people
- People of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Girls and boys, women and men

Principle 6: Policy development involves widespread consultation and involvement

People affected by a policy or programme are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. Such consultation is both direct and through representative organisations, and is based on principles of transparency and accountability. It involves those who in the past have been excluded or disadvantaged, and who continue to face barriers:

- Disabled people as well as non-disabled people from a range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Both women and men, and girls and boys
- Gay people as well as straight

Principle 7: Society as a whole benefits

Policies and programmes benefit society as a whole, locally, nationally and internationally, by fostering greater cohesion and greater participation in public life for:

- Disabled people as well as non-disabled
- People of a wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Both women and men, girls and boys
- Gay people as well as straight

Principle 8: We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish quantitative and qualitative information about our progress towards greater equality in relation to:

- Disability
- Ethnicity, religion and culture
- Gender

Principle 9: Objectives

We formulate and publish specific and measurable objectives, based on the evidence we have collected and published in relation to:

- Disability
- Ethnicity, religion and culture
- Gender

We recognise that the actions resulting from a policy statement such as this are what make a difference. Every three years, accordingly, we draw up an Equality & Accessibility Plan in accordance with our Single Equality Duty which take into account national and local priorities and issues, as appropriate from a school prospective.

Implementation

- Our admissions processes welcomes applications from the whole community and is a fair system (refer to Admissions Policy)
- We do not discriminate against a child or their family, or prevent entry to our school, on the basis of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, responsibility for children or other dependents, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, political activities, socio-economic background, living situation, being a member of a travelling community or an asylum seeker or having spent convictions
- We have an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and Single Equality Duty Policy which are accessible to all
- We discourage discriminatory behaviour by staff or parents and will take appropriate action
- Displaying of openly racist insignia, distribution of racist material, name-calling, or threatening behaviour are unacceptable on or around the school premises and will be dealt with in the strongest manner
- We do not discriminate against a child with a disability or refuse a child entry to our school because of any disability
- We have ensured that action plans are developed for children and parents with disabilities so that they can participate successfully in the activities offered by Robert Peel School and in the curriculum offered
- We promote our school widely in the local community
- We try to reflect the diversity of members of our society in all our publicity and promotional materials
- We provide information in clear, concise language, whether written or spoken

School Curriculum

The curriculum offered at Robert Peel School encourages children to develop positive attitudes about themselves as well as to people who are different from themselves. Equality and diversity is embedded as far as possible in all areas of the curriculum and pupils are given opportunities to explore prejudice and discrimination, and to positively explore difference in relation to race/ethnicity, religion/belief, gender, disability.

We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves through the curriculum and the SEAL scheme
- Ensuring that children have equal access to learning
- Recognising the different learning styles of children, making appropriate provision within the curriculum to ensure each child receives the widest possible opportunity to develop their skills and abilities



- Regularly reviewing the teaching within each subject area as well as with the resources that are available to support this so that both the diversity of the school, local community and wider society as a whole are represented in this.
- Avoiding stereotypes or derogatory images in the selection of books or other visual materials
- Celebrating a wide range of festivals
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and tolerance
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable
- Ensuring that the curriculum offered is inclusive of children with special educational needs and children with disabilities
- Ensuring that children learning English as an additional language have full access to the curriculum and are supported in their learning
- Data is collected with regard to the attainment and achievement of all pupils in order to inform the planning and provision of support to individuals and groups of pupils
- We recognise the specific assessment needs of pupils with additional needs such as EAL, SEND, etc, and also the importance of scrutinising assessment materials for cultural bias

Valuing Diversity in Families

- We welcome the diversity of family lifestyles and work with all families
- We encourage children to contribute stories of their everyday life through PSHE
- We encourage parents/carers to take part in the life of Robert Peel Primary School and to contribute fully
- For families who speak languages in addition to English, we will develop plans to ensure their full inclusion
- We offer a flexible payment system for families of differing means and offer information regarding sources of financial support

Food and Dietary Needs

- We work in partnership with parents to ensure that the medical, cultural and dietary needs of children are met as far as is reasonably possible
- We help children to learn about a range of food, and of cultural approaches to mealtimes and eating, and to respect the differences among them

Events

- Events are arranged to ensure that all families may become involved in the life of the school if they wish
- Information about events and meetings is communicated in a variety of ways (e.g. electronically, written and verbal), to ensure that all parents have information about, and access to, the meetings

Employment

- Posts are advertised and all applicants are judged against explicit and fair criteria
- Applicants are welcome from all backgrounds and posts are open to all
- The applicant who best meets the criteria is offered the post, subject to satisfactory reference and completing and enhanced DBS check this ensures a fair selection process
- All job descriptions include a commitment to equality and diversity as part of their specifications
- We monitor our application process to ensure that it is fair and accessible
- We may use the exemption clauses of the Race Relations Act and the Sex Discrimination Act where this is necessary to enable the service to best meet the needs of the community



Staff Training

All staff at Robert Peel Primary School will have their professional development needs met in relation to this agenda. This includes staff across all sections (teaching, support, mid-days, office staff, etc) and support that will be provided to meet their training needs as outlined in our School Improvement Plan. New and temporary staff will be made aware of our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and other practices in relation to this.

- We seek out training opportunities for staff and volunteers to enable them to develop anti-discriminatory and inclusive practices, which enable all children to flourish
- We review our practices annually to ensure that we are fully implementing our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

All who are associated with Robert Peel Primary School have a responsibility for promoting equality and inclusion, and avoiding unfair discrimination.

Our Governors are responsible for:

- Provide leadership and drive for the development and regular review of the school's policies
- Provide leadership and ensure the accountability of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership for the communication and implementation of school policies
- Highlight good practice and promote it throughout the school and wider community
- Provide appropriate role models for staff, pupils, parents and all other stakeholders
- Congratulate examples of good practice from the school
- Ensure a consistent response to incidents e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out the letter and the spirit of the statutory duties
- Making sure the school complies with all current equality legislation
- Making sure this policy and its procedures are followed
- Making sure that the school has up-to-date Equality Schemes and Action Plans

Our Headteacher is responsible for:

- Initiate and oversee the development and regular review of equality policies and procedures
- Consult pupils, staff and stakeholders in the development and review of the policies
- Ensure the effective communication of the policies to all pupils, staff and stakeholders
- Ensure that staff are trained as necessary to carry out the policies
- Oversee the effective implementation of the policies
- Hold Subject Leaders accountable for effective policy implementation
- Provide appropriate role models for all staff and pupils
- Provide opportunities and mechanisms for the sharing of good practice
- Take appropriate action in cases of harassment and discrimination and ensure a consistent response to incidents e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out its statutory duties effectively

Our Staff are responsible for:

- Proactively following this policy and any associated guidelines
- Providing role models for pupils through their own actions



- Dealing with racist, sexist and homophobic incidents, and recognising and tackling other forms of bias and stereotyping
- Promoting equality and good community relations and avoiding discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic circumstances
- Keeping up to date with the law on discrimination and taking training and learning opportunities offered to them

Our pupils are responsible for:

- Treating others kindly and fairly without prejudice, discrimination or harassment
- Attending and engaging in their own learning as well as helping other pupils to learn
- Telling staff about any prejudiced related incidents that occur

Our parents are responsible for:

- Supporting our school in its implementation of this policy
- Following the school policy through their own behaviour
- Ensuring their children attend and engage in the learning
- Telling staff about any prejudice related incidents that occur

Visitors and contractors are responsible for:

- Knowing and following our policy

Overseeing the Policy

Responsibility for overseeing equality practices in the school lies with a named member of staff and a named Governor. Responsibilities include:

- Co-ordinating and monitoring work on equality issues
- Dealing with and monitoring reports of harassment (including racist and homophobic incidents)
- Monitoring the progress and attainment of vulnerable groups of pupils Monitoring exclusion

Breaches of the Policy

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the Headteacher and Governing Body. Anyone wishing to make a complaint will be advised to follow the School Complaints Procedure.

Racial incidents will be recorded and reported in accordance with the Local Authorities established procedures and guidelines.

Other prejudice driven behaviour will be recorded and reported following the procedures and guidelines established by the Local Authority

Monitoring & Evaluation

As part of the monitoring and evaluation procedure, we will monitor:

- The attainment of pupils with protected characteristics and those from vulnerable groups and address any issues of differential progress and achievement
- The exclusion and other aspects of the behaviour management system by protected characteristics
- The teaching and learning to ensure all pupils' needs are met irrespective of their background and that challenging targets are set for all
- The curriculum and teaching resources to ensure that pupils' experiences are broadened and they are prepared for life in a diverse society
- The protected characteristic composition of the school's staff and Governors, with the aim of presenting positive role models and reflecting the diversity in wider society
- Incidents of racist and homophobic behaviour and the way the school handles and reports them
- The way in which the school is sensitive to, and meets the needs of all stakeholders, paying particular regard to cultural, religious historical, ethnic and/or linguistic heritages
- The way in which the school uses the diversity within its local and wider communities to enrich learning experiences for pupils

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored annually and reviewed every three years in the light of experiences and best practice. This mechanism recognises that changes to legislation might require a review of the policy before the three years stipulated.

In considering the effectiveness of this policy consultation will be undertaken with staff, governors, pupils and parents to assist in this review process.

Publication & Dissemination

We are committed to sharing information about our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy as broadly as appropriate. To this end, we will publish an annual update consisting of impact assessment results, progress made, refinements, amendments and new actions. We will also publish the results of a full scheme review every three years – in which we will make pro