



Bentilee Nursery School

Single Equality Policy and objectives

Date of Review: Summer 2024
Next review Summer 2026

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1. Mission statement

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide high quality care and education, in partnership with our families and the wider community.

At Bentilee Nursery School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Bentilee Nursery School we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

2. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

Teaching and learning

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender, disability and key person groups and action any gaps;
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;
- Ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Seek to involve all parents and carers in supporting their child's education;
- Encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's Behaviour Policy. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with. The school works very hard to ensure this is a very last resort.

3. Equal Opportunities for Staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Bentilee Nursery School.

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and 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. However, we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community.

Employer duties

As an employer we need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

Equality aspects such as gender, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention including bullying and harassment of staff;
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

4. Equality and the law

There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with legislation from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000), Disability Equality Duty (2005) and Equality Act (2006). There have been a number of changes with the Equality Act of 2010.

The action plan at the end of this Equality Plan outlines the actions we will take to meet the general duties detailed below.

4a. Race Equality

This section of the plan reflects the general and specific duties of schools as detailed in The Race Relations Act 1976 and as amended by The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

The Equalities Act 2010 also includes harassment by a third party with high-lighted areas of harassment and victimisation.

The General Race Equality Duty requires us to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination;
- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare an Equality Plan which includes our written policy for race equality;
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this Plan, on pupils, staff and parents by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these pupils;
- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such pupils, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups.

4b. Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy and Accessibility Strategy.

Definition of disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The DDA 2005 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities;
- Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is "clinically well-recognised", although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse impact on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Equalities Act 2010 also now includes associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination and harassment by a third party. Important high-lighted areas include victimization and associative discrimination.

Legal duties

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005 placed a general duty on schools, requiring them to have due regard for the following when carrying out and delivering services:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- Eliminating discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

The Equalities Act 2010 also includes associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination, harassment by a third party. Harassment and victimization are also key issues.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme identifying our disability equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Review and revise this Scheme every three years.

4c. Gender Equality

The Gender Equality Duty 2006 places a general and specific duty on schools to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of gender and to promote equality of opportunity between female and male pupils and between women and men and transgender people.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex and gender reassignment;
- Promote equality between men and women.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Gender Equality Scheme identifying our gender equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Review and revise this Scheme every three years.

The Equalities Act of 2010 now includes associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination and harassment by a third party. Important issues also include harassment and victimisation.

4d. Sexual Orientation

The Equality Act 2006 made provision for regulations to be introduced to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of religion or belief to sexual orientation.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 came into force on 30 April 2007, and they make discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools this means admissions, benefits and services for pupils and treatment of pupils.

The Equality Act 2010 now includes harassment by a third party. Important issues also include harassment and victimization.

4e. Community cohesion

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

4f. age

The employment equality (age) regulations 2006 make it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of age in all aspects of employment, including recruitment and training. A default retirement age of 65 has been introduced.

The Equalities Act 2010 also includes associative discrimination and harassment by a third party. Important elements also include harassment and victimisation.

4g. Religious belief

Employment equality (religion and belief) regulations 2003 making it unlawful to discriminate on grounds of religion or belief held- or lack of religion or belief- in employment and vocational training. The regulations include protection against direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, victimization and harassment.

The Equalities Act 2010 also now includes harassment by a third party with harassment and victimization as important features.

4h. Gender reassignment- sex discrimination regulations 1999

The regulations cover employment and vocational training only. It now covers gender reassignment as " a process undertaken under medical supervision, for the purpose of reassigning a person's sex by changing physiological or other characteristics of sex and includes any part of such a process."

The equality Act 2010 covers as well as direct discrimination-associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination and harassment by a third party. Harassment by a third party and victimization are also party to this.

4i. Sex

The Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 makes it unlawful to treat a woman or a man less favorably in employment, training and related matters, education and the provision of goods, facilities and services on the grounds of their gender or marriage.

The Equality Act of 2010 also includes associative discrimination, discrimination by perception. Victimisation is also an important issue.

5. Consultation and involvement

It is a requirement that the development of this plan and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from parent questionnaires, parents' consultations, governors' meetings, SMT and staff meetings.
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET;
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans/Personalised Provision Maps, mentoring and support;
- Feedback at Governing body meetings.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of governors

The governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this plan and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils, and responsive to their needs based on race, religion, age, gender and disability.

The governing body seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school on grounds of race, religion, age, gender or disability.

The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible for parents, carers and pupils.

The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever a child's socio-economic background, race, age, religion, gender or disability.

The governing body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their race, sex, age, religion or disability.

The role of the Headteacher (or senior leader responsible for Equalities)

It is the Headteacher's role to implement the school's Equality Plan and s/he is supported by the governing body in doing so.

It is the Headteacher's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Plan, and that all staff apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.

The Headteacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this plan, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.

The Headteacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life.

The Headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness.

The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

All staff will ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's Equality Plan.

All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images.

All staff will challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the Headteacher.

Teachers support the work of support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents.

7. Tackling discrimination

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a pupil's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a teacher / Headteacher where necessary. All incidents are reported to the Headteacher and racist incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as:

'Any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.

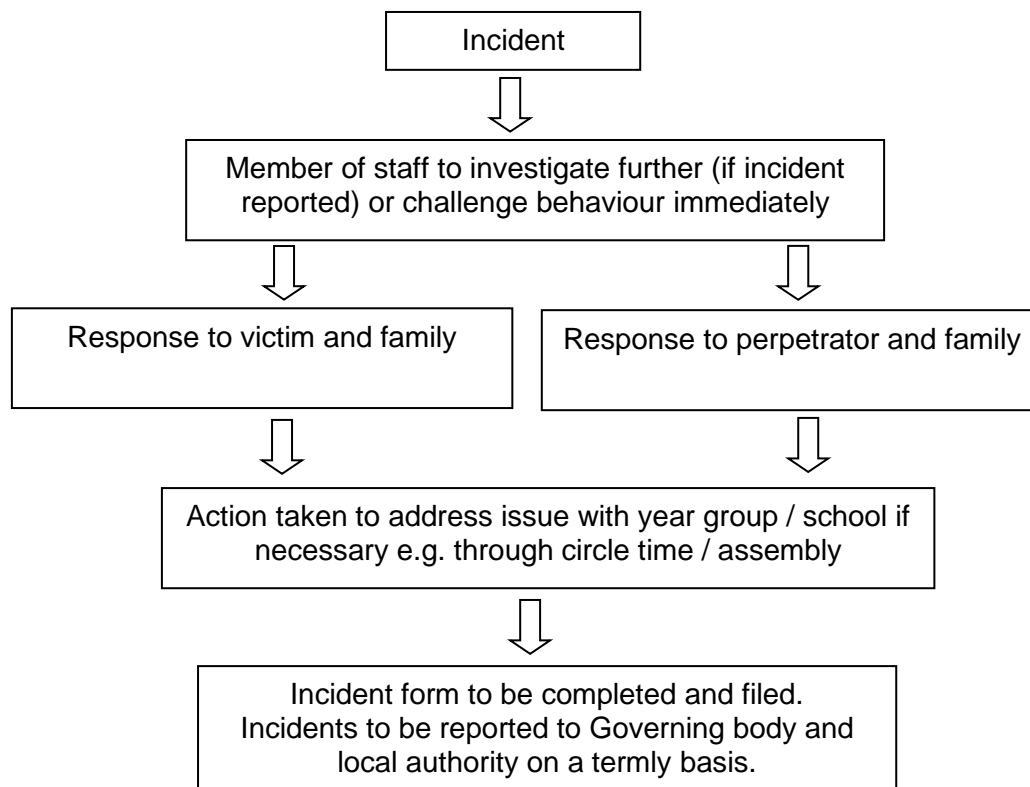
Types of discriminatory incident

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Victimisation- someone which is treated badly because they have made/ supported a complaint or grievance under the Act
- Harassment-behaviour one finds offensive even if it is not directed at you.
- Harassment by a third party- employers are potentially liable for harassment of their staff by people they do not employ.
- Indirect discrimination- Can occur when you have a rule or policy that applies to everyone but disadvantages a particular PC
- Discrimination by perception- direct discrimination against someone because the others think they possess a particular PC
- Associative discrimination- direct discrimination against someone because they associate with another person who possess a PC
- Direct discrimination - someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic.

Responding to and reporting incidents

It should be clear to pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.



8. Review of progress and impact

The Plan has been agreed by our Governing Body. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with legislative requirements, we will review progress against our Equality Plan annually and review the entire plan and accompanying action plan on a three year cycle. Linked governor acts as a critical friend to challenge policy and practice.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupil progress. As part of this process, we regularly monitor achievement by ethnicity, gender and disability, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress, and take appropriate action to address any gaps.

9. Publishing the plan

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 the different groups. We produce data Analysis which informs our discussions about the Equality Objectives.

Equality Objectives

This equality objectives statement is a declaration of aims that ensures equality to all members of the school's community.

At Bentilee Nursery School we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The school's general duties, with regards to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination
- Fostering good relationships
- Advancing equality of opportunity

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any child, prospective child, or other member of the school community because of their:

- Gender
- Race
- Disability
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy or maternity

Bentilee Nursery School aim to promote children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality, diversity and eradicating prejudicial incidents for children's and staff. Our school are committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity.

Aims to Eradicate Discrimination

Bentilee Nursery School believe that a greater level of success from children's and staff can be achieved by realising the uniqueness of individuals.

Creating a prejudice-free environment where individuals feel confident and at ease is a commitment of the school. This environment will be achieved by:

- Being respectful
- Always treating all members of the school community fairly
- Developing an understanding of diversity and the benefits it can have
- Adopting an inclusive attitude
- Adopting an inclusive curriculum that is accessible to all

- Encouraging compassion and open-mindedness

We are committed to having a balanced and fair curriculum. We believe that our children should be exposed to ideas and concepts that may challenge their understanding to help ensure that children's learn to become more accepting and inclusive of others. Challenging and controversial concepts will be delivered in a way that prevents discrimination, and instead promotes inclusive attitudes. We will also respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from classes which pose conflicts to their own beliefs.

Dealing with Prejudice

Bentilee Nursery School does not tolerate any form of prejudice-related incident. Whether direct or indirect, we treat discrimination against all members of our school with the utmost severity. When an incident is reported, through a thorough reporting procedure, our school is devoted to ensuring appropriate action is taken and a resolution is put into place which is both fair and firm.

At Bentilee Nursery School our children are taught to be:

- Understanding of others
- Celebratory of cultural diversity
- Eager to reach their full potential
- Inclusive
- Aware of what constitutes discriminatory behaviour

The school's employees will not:

- Discriminate against any member of the school
- Treat other members of the school unfairly

The school's employee's will:

- Promote diversity equality
- Encourage and adopt an inclusive attitude
- Lead by example

Equality and Dignity in the Workplace

Bentilee Nursery School does not discriminate against staff with regards to their:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partner status
- Pregnancy or maternity

- Race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- Religion or belief
- Sex or sexual orientation

Equality of opportunity and non-discrimination extends to the treatment of all members of the school community. All staff members are obliged to act in accordance with the school's various policies relating to equality.

We will guarantee that no redundancy is the result of direct or indirect prejudice. All disciplinary procedures are non-prejudicial, whether they result in warnings, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action.

Achievement of all children

- All pupils make at least good progress related to their baseline entry.
- Pupils entering within their developmental age band in the seven areas of learning, we strive to support their attainment so that when they leave, they are mostly on track
- Where children enter working well below their age in the seven areas of learning, we aim to narrow the attainment gap so that in some areas they are working at least within their appropriate age by the time they leave.
- We aim to narrow the gap between 88% attendance in the year 2018/19 (due to COVID-19 we cannot use 2019-20 data) and the goal of 96%.

What's Next?

Prejudice is not tolerated at Bentilee Nursery School and we are continuously working towards a more accepting and respectful environment for our school community.

Monitoring and reviewing objectives

We review and update our equality objectives every year and report annually to the governing body on progress towards achieving them. We involve and consult staff, pupils, governors and parents and carers.

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.

In order to meet the statutory requirements to publish a Single Equality Plan we will:
Publish our plan on the school website in this policy

Raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, staff meetings, Governors meetings and other communications;

Make sure hard copies are available.

Equality Objectives

At Benitlee Nursery School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all children, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, religion or socio-economic background.

In order to further support children, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching, we have set the following objectives:-

Objective 1: To monitor and analyse children's achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for children.

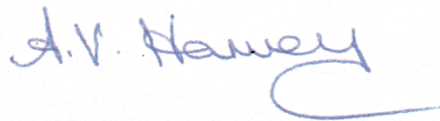
Objective 2: To raise levels of attainment in core subjects for vulnerable learners.

Objective 3: To review levels of parental and children's engagement in learning and school life, across all activities to ensure equality and fairness in access and engagement.



Signed:

Head teacher: Miss Juliet Levingstone



Signed:

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Ann Harvey