



Equal Opportunities Policy

**Equal Opportunities Policy
(Including EYFS)**

Policy Review Date: October 2017

Reviewed By: J Callaway & SLT

Next Review: October 2018 (or
following incident, legislation or
interim guidance)

Distribution

Please note that 2 copies of this policy are printed as standard and distributed to the following areas:

- 1) Staff Room
- 2) School Office

This policy is also made available on the school website.

Updates and Amendments to Policy

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This policy applies to the whole school, including EYFS and Wraparound Care

INTRODUCTION

Avalon school recognises that many members of the society experience disadvantage. For many children, coming to school marks the beginning of the individual child's lifetime relationship with his or her society or culture. Children are acquiring a social identity from their first days in the Early Years department. We must recognise the ways in which children experience disadvantage or are influenced by external factors to perpetuate disadvantage in our society. We are responsible for planning the curriculum and all aspects of school life in a way that includes and enables all children and reflects all sections of society.

The planning and delivering of the curriculum promotes equal opportunities irrespective of race, culture, gender, socio-economic background or disability. Children will derive most benefit from their school experience if they are accepted and valued for who they are.

We are not an academically selective school and we believe that the educational experience can only be enriched if children are exposed to as wide a range of cultural experiences as possible whilst they are developing.

We also welcome applications from pupils with special needs and disabilities, and refer parents to our policy covering Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The main types of unlawful discrimination cover acts of direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity. Age discrimination law does not apply to pupils.

Harassment in all its forms is unlawful and unacceptable; our staff code of conduct, behaviour and anti-bullying policies contain clear procedures for dealing with unlawful discrimination.

At Avalon school we:

- Seek to develop the particular abilities of each child as an individual
- Are committed to providing a curriculum and a whole school ethos which promotes equality of opportunity free from discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sex, religion or physical disability
- Encourage pupils throughout the school to follow their own interests. All children have an equal opportunity to take part in all activities.
- Recognise that adults are very influential in the formation of children's attitudes and values.
- Believe that children will take their cue from adult responses and reactions and it is therefore important that staff do not evade issues of equality
- Believe it is important to promote equal opportunities for girls and boys, dispelling assumptions based on sexual stereotyping
- Assume that both sexes need similar life skills and will engage in similar work.

At Avalon school we aim to:

- provide opportunities for all children to contribute to and participate in all classroom activities
- encourage all teachers to check displays for race or gender bias

- Check books and other resources and teaching materials for race or gender bias, suggesting alternative ways of presentation
- make pupils aware that racist or sexist language is not acceptable
have the same goals and expectations, tasks and options for all
pupils use the same criteria for assessment
- ensure that 'jobs' in the classroom or around school are allocated equally
- ensure that the school rules are the same for all children and we should be consistent in our Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy with the same behaviour and discipline controls for all pupils
- Provide for different levels of skills and different previous experiences, ensuring that assemblies and presentations do not hold any race or gender bias

REFERENCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school and Government documents:

- Equal Opportunities section from the school staff handbook
- School Accessibility Plan
- School SEND policy
- Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- School Anti-bullying policy
- School Behaviour Policy

MONITORING

The Governors and Headteacher play an active role in monitoring the implementation of Avalon School's policy on Equal Opportunities. Use is made of assemblies, PSCHEE, RE, Drama, English and other lessons to:

- Promote tolerance of each other and respect for each other's position within the school community.
- Promote positive images and role models to avoid prejudice and raise awareness of related issues.
- Foster an open-minded approach and encourage pupils to recognise the contributions made by different cultures. Bias should be recognised.
- Understand why and how we will deal with offensive language and behaviour.
- Understand why we will deal with any incidents promptly and in a sensitive manner.
- Promote good relations between people of different racial, ethnic and religious groups.
- Make sure that all staff are aware of the school policy on equal opportunities, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- All appointments panels give due regard to this policy, so that no one is discriminated against.

- Promote the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and in providing opportunities for training.

At Avalon School we recognise our responsibility to ensure positive attitudes to diversity and difference – not only so that every child is included and not disadvantaged, but also so that they learn from the earliest age to value diversity in others and grow up making a positive contribution to society. We understand the importance of providing a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development and we undertake to make reasonable adjustments to enable all to participate in our programme of learning, where all are valued and supported.

This policy will be reviewed annually.