

Equality and Diversity Policy

Implemented October 2021
Reviewed October 2022 by Director (Paul Riley)

Context

The legal and local framework for this policy is:

- Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended in 2000)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended in 2005)
- Children Act 2004
- Equality Act 2006
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Duty to Promote Community Cohesion, Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Stockport Diversity and Equality Policy and Comprehensive Equality Scheme
- Equality Act 2010

Aims and Values

Our provision ethos states: At Blackwell Education we aim to promote equality and tackle any form of discrimination and actively promote harmonious relations in all areas of provision life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

At Blackwell Education we seek to:

- Eliminate Discrimination
- Advance Equality of Opportunity
- Foster Good Relations

We aim to:

- provide a secure environment in which all our children can flourish and achieve all five outcomes of 'Every Child Matters' (be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and enjoy economic wellbeing);
- provide a learning environment where all individuals see themselves reflected and feel a sense of belonging;
- prepare children for life in a diverse society in which children are able to see their place in the local, regional, national and international community;
- include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity;
- provide positive non-stereotyping information about different groups of people regardless of protected characteristics under the law (disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment and identification and pregnancy / maternity);
- plan systematically to improve our understanding and promotion of diversity;
- actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage;
- make inclusion a thread which runs through all our activities.

To achieve these aims we will:

- involve stakeholders in the development, review, evaluation, and impact assessment of all relevant improvement plans, policies and procedures;
- publish and share our policies with the whole community;
- collect and analyse data to ensure all groups are progressing well and no group is subject to disadvantage;
- use all available information to set suitable learning challenges for all, respond to pupils' diverse needs and overcome any potential barriers to learning;
- ensure that the wider provision curriculum makes explicit and implicit provision to promote and celebrate diversity;
- have high expectations of behaviour which demonstrates respect to others;
- ensure that all reasonable adjustments are made to ensure equality of opportunity.

Leadership, Management and Governance

Blackwell Education is committed to:

- being proactive in promoting good relationships and equality of opportunity across all aspects of provision life and the wider community, and in eliminating any harassment or discrimination;
- encouraging, supporting and enabling all pupils and staff to reach their potential and make a positive contribution;
- working in partnership with families, the local authority (LA) and the wider community to establish, promote and disseminate inclusive practice and tackle discrimination, ensuring that our Equality and Diversity Policy is followed.

The Director

It is the directors responsibility to:

- implement the policy and its strategies and procedures;
- ensure that all staff receive appropriate and relevant continuous professional development;
- actively challenge and take appropriate action in any cases of discriminatory practice;
- deal with any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with LA guidance;
- ensure that all visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the provision's equality and diversity policy

All Staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- be vigilant in all areas of the provision in identifying any type of harassment and bullying;
- deal effectively with all incidents from overt name-calling to the more subtle forms of victimisation caused by perceived differences;
- identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and in the provision's culture;
- promote equality, and good relations and not discriminate on grounds of disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, pregnancy /maternity or sexual orientation;
- promote an inclusive curriculum and whole provision ethos which reflects our diverse society;

- keep up to date with equality legislation, development and issues by attending relevant training and accessing information from appropriate sources.

Breaches of the Policy

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the LA as required.