

Richard Avenue Primary School

Single Equality Scheme

Date of review: Summer 2017

Date of next review: Summer 2020

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"This Single Equality Scheme brings together the school's approach for promoting equality in our policies and procedures and, most importantly in our day-to-day running of the school.

1) What is the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan?

Our Single Equality Scheme (SES) and action plan covers a three-year period from 2017 to 2020. It integrates our statutory duties in relation to the nine protected characteristics:

The Nine Protected Characteristics	Community Cohesion
A) Race B) Disability C) Sex (Gender) D) Sexual orientation E) Age F) Religion and belief G) Gender reassignment H) Marriage and Civil Partnership I) Pregnancy and Maternity	Community Cohesion is promoted through the nine Protected characteristics.

The Characteristics cover staff, pupils and people using the services of the school such as parents.

It also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership, gender reassignment and disability, and therefore includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

Our Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan (objectives) enables us to achieve a framework for action which covers all nine protected characteristics and ensures that we meet our responsibilities of the public sector duties in an inclusive way.

We will continue to meet our statutory duties by reporting annually on the progress of the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan (objectives). This will be reviewed by our Governing body.

2) Meeting our duties

Under the statutory duties all schools have responsibilities to promote race, disability and gender equality.

A) Race equality

The general duty to promote race equality means that we must have due regard to:

1. Eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
2. Promote equality of opportunity
3. Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Dealing with racist incidents

We follow the Local Authority Procedures for dealing with racist actions or any form of discrimination.

B) Disability equality

The general duty to promote disability equality is owed to all disabled people which means that we must have due regard to:

1. Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people
2. Eliminate unlawful discrimination
3. Eliminate disability related harassment
4. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
5. Encourage participation by disabled people in public life
6. Take steps to take account of disabled peoples' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled people more favourably than other people.

What do we understand by “disability”?

“Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities” (DDA 1995 Part 1 para. 1.1.) This definition was amended and broadened in December 2005 under the 2005 Disability Amendment Act:-

- *People with cancer or surviving cancer are now included, as are people with HIV and Multiple Sclerosis from the point of diagnosis*
- *For a mental impairment the need for it to be clinically well recognised has been removed.*

The Disability Equality in Education (DEE) recommends that all pupils with SEN and those with long term medical needs be treated as disabled for the purposes of the Act and for equality. This is in addition to all pupils with long-term impairments, which have a significant impact on their day-to-day activities.

RAPS uses the “social model” of disability:

This model says that “it is the world and society that creates barriers that limit or prevent disabled people from enjoying the same opportunities as people who are not disabled”.

We use the social model of disability throughout our work. We understand that the definition of disability under the Act is different from the eligibility criteria for special educational needs provision. This means that disabled pupils may or may not have special educational needs. We believe that social, educational and behavioural difficulties are part of this definition.

Accessibility

There is specific disability legislation in relation to disabled pupils and accessibility which means we must plan strategically over time to:

1. Increase access to the curriculum.
2. Make improvements to the physical environment of the school to increase access.
3. Make written information accessible to pupils in a range of different ways.

We must ensure that disabled pupils do not receive less favourable treatment and to do this the school has a duty to make reasonable adjustments.

C) Sex (Gender) equality

The general duty to promote gender equality means that we must have due regard to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
2. Promote equality of opportunity between men and women, girls and boys.

D) Sexual orientation

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual's sexual orientation. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

E) Age

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual's age. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

F) Religion & Belief

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual's Religion or Belief. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

G) Gender Reassignment

Transgender people are explicitly covered by the gender equality duty. The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender. The school will respect the confidentiality of those seeking gender reassignment & those individuals who have already undertaken gender reassignment - RAPS will provide a supportive environment within its school community.

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual's current gender. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

H) Marriage and Civil Partnership

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual's relationship with another individual, whether it be through Marriage or Civil partnership. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

I) Pregnancy and Maternity

We must ensure that we do not discriminate on the grounds of an individual, through Pregnancy and/or Maternity. This Scheme includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

Community Cohesion

We also have a responsibility to promote community cohesion, developing good relations across different cultures, ethnic, religious and non religious and socioeconomic groups. We have incorporated our priorities into our Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan (objectives) to make it easier to monitor our progress and performance in meeting our objectives.

3) Our school values and visions

In meeting the duties described above will mean that all our actions will embody our school's key principles and values, which include:

- We strive to make the best possible provision for all pupils/parents, regardless of disability, ethnicity, culture, religious belief, national origin or status, gender or sexual orientation.
- We respect diversity. We know that treating people equally is not simply a matter of treating everyone the same. We take the view that inclusion is: "The process of taking necessary steps to ensure that every young person is given an equality of opportunity therefore to develop socially, to learn and to enjoy community life." We do our best to make reasonable adjustments for disability, recognise and celebrate cultural differences, and understand the different needs and experiences of boys and girls.
- We know that equalities is not simply about protecting the potentially vulnerable. We believe that all children may be disadvantaged by the holding of prejudicial views, and seek to promote good relationships between all groups, and positive attitudes towards disabled people, people from different ethnic or cultural groups or faith backgrounds and people of different gender or sexual orientation.
- We value staff for their ability and potential to help us make the best possible provision for the children in our school, regardless of disability, ethnicity, culture, religious belief, national origin, gender or sexual orientation.
- We are proactive in our efforts to identify and minimise existing barriers or inequalities.
- We seek the views of all groups affected by the policies and work of our school, and try to involve them in policy review.
- We recognise our role in promoting community cohesion, and actively encourage the participation in public life of all learners in our school.

4) Our school within Sunderland's profile

Sunderland is a city of 190,000 people.

There are 110 schools in Sunderland, including 83 Primary schools, 17 Secondary schools 7 special schools, 3 pupil referral units. Some of these schools are academies.

Richard Avenue Primary School is large primary school serving a mixed catchment area, currently numbers are rising. Our School (2016-2017) is a multicultural school with 67% EAL (50% Bengali, 17% other EAL) and 33% White British. We currently have 18 different home languages (other than English).

5) Collecting and analysing equality information for pupils at Richard Avenue Primary School

Richard Avenue Primary is an inclusive school. We use the curriculum and teaching to enhance the self-esteem of all those it serves and to provide a learning environment in which each individual is encouraged to fulfil her or his potential.

We collect and analyse the following equality information for our pupils/students in the following ways:

- Attainment & Levels of Achievement
- Attendance levels
- Exclusions
- Attendance at Extended School activities
- Complaints of Racial Incidents
- School termly census (Autumn, Summer & PLASC in Spring) – Religion, Age, Gender, Disability & Race

Any issues identified have put into the SES action plan.

6) Collecting and analysing equality information for employment and governance at Richard Avenue Primary School

Richard Avenue Primary School is committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, victimisation, and harassment.

Richard Avenue Primary School also aims to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and governing body that is representative of all sections of the community in order to provide a service that respects and responds to the diverse needs of our local population.

We currently employ 38 staff at Richard Avenue Primary School to undertake a range of duties. Currently we have:

- 33 females & 5 males
- No registered disabled staff
- 33 Staff are White British and 5 staff are Bengali

The school workforce census enables us to collate data on staff relating to gender, race and disability. All staff vacancies are filled using the Local Authority application forms which contain requests for information relating to ethnicity, gender and disability.

All information is kept on the school's central database.

We collect and analyse the following profile information for our staff and governors:

- Applicants for employment (via local authority recruitment forms)
- Staff profile
- Staff attendance
- Governing body profile
- Attendance on staff training events
- Disciplinary and grievance cases
- Appraisal

Any issues identified have put into the SES action plan (objectives)

We have been mindful of the Laws relating to confidentiality when devising this Scheme and Action Plan (objectives). Although there is a statutory duty to share information about the school's single equality scheme, we recognise that care must be taken when sharing or publishing statistics, data or information to ensure that any information published cannot be used to identify individuals.

In respect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998, any analysis of sensitive information is undertaken by a senior member of the school staff.

7) Consultation and involving people

Through a variety of different consultation exercises, RAPS endeavours to involve as many people as possible from our community in the consultation exercises.

Consultation takes place with the following:

- Discussions at school council
- Contact with parent/carers
- Discussions at staff meetings, governing bodies and cluster groups
- Contact with local community groups

During discussions, the following good practice was identified:

- Accessible toilet, sluice, wall hung nappy changing mat & ceiling hoist
- Staff well trained on the needs of specifically identified children
- Friendly and approachable staff – with male and female role models
- Procedures in place to meet any medical needs
- Care plans in place with good support from the School nursing team
- Proactive in meeting pastoral needs
- Admission form criteria includes information on disability
- High standards in effectively implementing inclusive practices across the school
- A high quality curriculum meeting pupil needs
- Key policies in place – SEN & Inclusion, Pastoral Care and Discipline, Anti-bullying.
- A welcoming school - with an Inclusive feel
- IEP's in place for pupils with specific needs
- Discussions also identified needs not already met

8) What we have achieved so far

This section details what we have achieved so far in relation to the equality duties and celebrating the outcomes.

Race equality

We have had limited, reported racist incidents in school.

Disability equality

Currently we have no disabled pupils or staff with accessibility problems. However, we do have an 'Accessible toilet' with additional sluice, wall hung nappy changing mat & ceiling hoist. We have been proactive in meeting the specific needs of pupils in the future.

Gender equality

Where we have identified differences in attainment our action plans promote equality of provision and opportunity for all.

In addition we believe that Richard Avenue Primary school can also celebrate the following good practice:

- Community cohesion.

In addition to the detailed description given above, we also undertake the following:

Teaching, learning and curriculum – Our curriculum is fully accessible to all children. Parents are regularly informed of the learning to take place both in newsletters and through open meetings. All correspondence sent home is available from the school office in larger type – should it be requested, we also provide bilingual language support as required. We feel our curriculum has a global perspective, enabling children to see themselves in context of the wider world community. Our older children, through the PSHCE and RE curriculum, have a sound understanding of difference and how different is neither better or worse – it is something to be celebrated.

- Engagement and extended services. We have good active and supportive relationship with extended services provision delivered from our Community facility.

9) Equality impact assessments

Equality impact assessment is a systematic method of rigorously checking all school policies, procedures and practices to ensure they are genuinely accessible and meet the needs of our staff and the local community in relation to the nine protected characteristics (race, disability, (Sex)gender, sexual orientation, age & religion and belief, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership and pregnancy & maternity.

All school policies are reviewed over a 3 year period.

10) Other School Policies

We have used our existing school policies to inform our Single Equality Scheme. These include:

- School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- SEN & Inclusion policy
- DDA
- Accessibility policy
- Racist incidence policy

- Anti -Bullying policy
- Whistle blowing policy
- Gender policy
- Diversity policy
- Sexual Orientation Act

11) Roles and Responsibilities

- Our governing body will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this Scheme and Action Plan.
- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this Scheme, and will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that they are given necessary training and support and report progress to the governing body.
- The Headteacher supported by the Deputy Head Teacher has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this scheme.
- Our staff are expected to promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs, maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues.
- Our pupils have a responsibility to themselves and others to treat each other with respect, to feel valued, and to speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour.
- We will take steps to ensure all visitors to the school, including parents/carers and visiting organisations offering a service are adhering to our commitment to equality.

12) Publicising our scheme

Our Single Equality scheme will be made accessible to all persons within our local and school community in the following ways:

- School website
- Staff and parent newsletter

13) Annual Review of Progress

We will continue to review annually the outcomes of the Action plan (objectives) which include:

- Reporting to staff and governors
- Celebrating what we have achieved in relation to promoting Single equality (which includes Community Cohesion).
- Identifying new priorities.