



# Single Equalities Policy

<b>Policy title:</b>	<b>Single Equalities Policy</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>FGB</b>
<b>Date approved:</b>	<b>July 2023</b>

## Policy review

Date of review	When / who carried out the review	Details of changes	Next steps
July 2024	Headteacher	No Changes	
July 2025	Headteacher	No Changes	
May 2026	Headteacher & Office Manager	No Changes	

## **Single Equalities Policy and Action Plan**

### **Statement of Principles**

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of Ashworth Nursery School to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school this means not simply treating everybody the same but understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of pupils in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Parents/carers
- The governing body
- Multi-agency staff linked to the school
- Visitors to school
- Students on placement

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

At Ashworth Nursery School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

Our mission statement clearly reflects these principles:-

‘Ashworth Nursery School is committed to providing a high quality curriculum and learning environment. We aim to develop all the children to their full potential emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially.

By joining together as a community we share our achievements and show value and respect for one another.’

### **School in Context**

Ashworth Nursery School is a Blackburn with Darwen LA Maintained Nursery School and provides education for children aged three to four years of age. It is situated within the Bank Top area which is in the top 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Our catchment area is wide and we attract children from the adjacent 2 wards.

Currently we have 100 children on roll with approximately 80% attending part time. Majority of children begin nursery in September.

The school is fully accessible at the main entrance; the door can be secured to enable a wheel chair to access the building. There is a ramp from the classroom to the outside playing areas, with a gated entrance/exit.

### **Ethos and Atmosphere**

- At Ashworth Nursery School, the leadership of the school community will demonstrate mutual respect between all members of the school community
- There is an openness of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the school
- All within the school community will challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour, e.g. through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions
- All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect

- The displays around the school are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored
- Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning appropriate, activities and events within the school.

## **Policy Development**

This policy applies to the whole school community. It has been drawn up as a result of the outcomes of a transparent process and through consultation with: parents, staff and governors.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Ashworth Nursery School is an inclusive school, working towards greater equality in the whole school community. We use the curriculum and teaching to enhance the self-esteem of all those it serves and to provide learning environment in which each individual is encouraged to fulfil her or his potential.

We collect and analyse a range of equality information for our pupils:

- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Gender
- Attainment data
- Attendance data
- Behaviour logs
- Complaints of bullying or harassment

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupils' progress, as they move through the school. As part of this process, we regularly monitor the performance of different groups, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress. We use this information to adjust future teaching and learning plans, as necessary.

Resources are available to support groups of pupils where the information suggests that progress is not as good as it should be. The governing body receives regular updates on pupil performance information.

School performance information is collated and analysed against the ages and stages within the EYFS Framework. Data from nursery assessment performance cannot be compared against other schools as it is not like for like.

As well as monitoring pupil performance information, we also regularly monitor a range of other information. This relates to:

- Attendance
- Racism, disability, sexism, homophobia and all forms of bullying
- Parental involvement
- Participation in Extended Learning Opportunities

Our monitoring activities enable us to identify any differences in pupil performance and provide specific support as required, including pastoral support. This allows us to take appropriate action to meet the needs of specific groups in order to make necessary improvements.

Ashworth Nursery School is also committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation. We aim to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and establish a governing body that is representative of all sections of the community in order to respect and respond to the diverse needs of our population.

We collect and analyse a range of information for our staff and governors e.g.:

- applicants for employment
- staff profile
- governing body profile
- attendance at training events
- disciplinary and grievance case
- staff appraisal/performance management

All information is handled in a confidential manner

Due regard is given to the promotion of equality in the School Improvement Plan. The person responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan is Mrs Victoria Burnside.

Her role is to:

- Lead discussions, organise training, update staff in staff meetings, support discussions
- Work with the governing body on matters relating to equality
- Support evaluation activities that moderate the impact and success of this policy

## **Developing Best Practice**

### **Learning and Teaching**

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

- Provide equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping
- Use materials to promote a positive image of and attitude towards disability and disabled people
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and religions and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Use a range of sensitive teaching strategies when teaching about different cultural and religious traditions
- Develop pupils advocacy skills so that they can detect bias, challenge discrimination, leading to justice and equality
- Ensure that the whole curriculum covers issues of equality and diversity;
- All staff, where appropriate, promote and celebrate the contribution of different cultures to the subject matter
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education
- Provide educational visits and extended learning opportunities that involve all pupil groups
- Take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all groups of pupils
- Identify resources and training that support staff development

### **Learning Environment**

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination. All pupils are encouraged to improve on their own achievements and not to measure themselves against others. Parents are also encouraged to view their own children's achievements in this light.

- An enthusiastic staff is a vital factor in achieving a high level of motivation and good results from all pupils
- Adults in the school will provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity
- The school should place a very high priority on the provision for special educational needs and disability. We will meet all pupils' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered programmes of work
- The school must provide an environment in which all pupils have equal access to all facilities and resources
- All pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning
- A range of teaching methods are to be used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils
- Consideration will be given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage

### **Curriculum**

At Ashworth Nursery School, we aim to ensure that:

- Pupils are prepared for life in a pluralist society

- Children are taught to recognise their own self worth
- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all areas of learning and cross curricular themes promoting pupil independence and positive attitudes to equality and diversity
- Pupils will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality
- Steps are taken to ensure that all pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum by taking into account their cultural, backgrounds, linguistic needs and learning styles
- Have high expectations of all the children and record their progress through 'Development Matters' working towards School Readiness Statements in the children's' individual learning journals.
- Provision is high quality, adult-directed activities alongside supported child-initiated learning in order to extend the children's' skills, consolidate previous learning and improve their level of development.

## **Resources and Materials**

The provision of good quality resources and materials within Ashworth Nursery School is a high priority. When ordering new resources, we consider how they will demonstrate equality and diversity.

These resources should:

- Reflect the reality of an ethnically, culturally and sexually diverse society
- Reflect a variety of viewpoints
- Show positive images of males and females in society
- Include non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context
- Be accessible to all members of the school community

## **Language**

We recognise that it is important at Ashworth Nursery School that all members of the school community use appropriate language which:

- Does not transmit or confirm stereotypes
- Does not offend
- Creates and enhances positive images of particular groups identified at the beginning of this document
- Creates the conditions for all people to develop their self esteem
- Uses accurate language in referring to particular groups or individuals and challenges in instances where this is not the case
- Makes use of children's' first language effectively for learning

## **Extended Learning Opportunities**

It is the policy of this school to provide equal access to all activities from an early age.

We undertake responsibility for making contributions to extended learning opportunities and are aware of the school's commitment to equality of opportunity (e.g. sports helpers, coach drivers) by providing them with written guidelines drawn from this policy.

We try to ensure that all such non staff members who have contact with children adhere to these guidelines.

## **Provision for Bi-lingual Pupils**

We undertake at Ashworth Nursery School to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bi-lingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum.

These groups may include:

- Pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Pupils who are new to the United Kingdom
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children
- Advanced bi-lingual learners

## **Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance**

- Staff take account of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination and the experience and needs of particular groups such as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, refugee and asylum seeker pupils
- All pupils/staff/parents/carers are given support, as appropriate, if they experience discrimination
- We recognise that perpetrators may also be victims and require support.

- Emphasis is placed on the value that diversity brings to the school community rather than the challenges.

## **Staffing and Staff Development**

We recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff.

- This must include pupils' access to a balance of staff where possible.
- We encourage the career development and aspirations of all school staff.
- It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of pupils.
- Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds.

## **Staff Recruitment**

- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and ensure equality good practice through the recruitment and selection process.
- Equalities policies and practices are covered in all staff inductions.
- All temporary staff are made aware of policies and practices.
- Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact

## **Partnerships with Parents/Carers/Families and the Wider Community**

We will work with parents/carers to help all pupils to achieve their potential.

- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school.
- The school has a role to play in supporting new and settled families by promoting the school commitment to equality for all.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Our Governing body will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this policy and action plan. Our nominated Governor for Equality is Mrs L Garner.
- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, 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 has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this policy
- Our staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately if incidents of discrimination and harassment occur, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs and maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues
- All members of the school community have a responsibility to treat each other and staff 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 adhere to our commitment to equality

## **Commissioning and Procurement**

Ashworth Nursery School will ensure that we buy services from organisations that comply with equality legislation. This will be a significant factor in any tendering process.

## **The Measurement of Impact of the Policy**

This policy will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. A regular review will ensure that standards, expectations and policy implementation is effectively adhered to.

## **Publicising the Policy and Plan**

In order to meet the statutory requirements to publish a Single Equality Policy we will:

- Publish the policy on the school website
- Raise awareness of the policy through newsletters, class activities, staff meetings, and other communications.
- Make sure hard copies are available.

### Annual Review of Progress

Annual reports will be made on the progress and performance in respect of this policy covering ethnicity, disability and gender and we will report annually on the progress made to improve access for disabled pupils, including access to the curriculum, physical access and access to information. Taking this single equality approach, we will incorporate all requirements into one annual report which meets requirements. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### SINGLE EQUALITIES ACTION PLAN

Action	Monitoring the impact of the action	Person Responsible	Timescale	Success Indicator
Publish and promote the equality policy through the school website, newsletter and staff meetings	Question about equality awareness in annual parental questionnaire	Headteacher	Annually	Staff are familiar with the policy and this is reflected in classroom practice.  Parents are aware of the Equality policy
Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act upon any trends or patterns in the data	Achievement data analysed by race, gender and disability	Headteacher Teacher	Annually July	Analysis of teacher assessments/ annual data demonstrates the gap is narrowing for equality groups.
Ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school	Teachers monitor by race, gender, disability provision of circle time activities and appropriate PSED curriculum		continuously	Pupil outcomes reflect the positive contribution and confidence in the school environment that encompasses all.
Identify, respond and report racist incidents as outlined in the policy	Governors to monitor incidents through termly Headteacher report.	Chair of Governors	Termly report October February May	Staff are aware and will respond to racist incidents if they arise.
Promote Governor vacancies through leaflets, posters, direct invitation	Monitoring of members of the Governing Body	Headteacher/ Chair of Governors	Ongoing	Governing Body has representatives which reflect all groups covered within this policy

## **Appendix – Equality Legislation Guidance**

### **What does a school need to do?**

**(Note: The duties outlined below are now elements of the Public Sector Equality Duty)**

#### **Race**

The term race includes colour, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin and citizenship as well as race.

### **The Race Equality Duty**

#### **What is it?**

- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (which includes the Race Equality Duty) amended the Race Relations Act 1976
- It came into effect from April 2001

#### **Who is covered?**

- Pupils, parents/carers, prospective pupils and parents/carers, staff, job applicants, governors and others using school facilities

#### **General duties**

- Tackle racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good relations between persons of different racial groups

#### **Specific duties**

- From May 2002 publish a Race Equality Policy which includes an implementation strategy or action plan (effectively a Race Equality Scheme), monitor it annually and review it every three years
- Involve appropriate and diverse stakeholders in developing the policy
- Monitoring the impact of the school's policies on pupils' performance and progress
- Provide ethnic monitoring data on their staff in regular returns to the Local Authority

### **Reporting racist incidents in schools**

All racist incidents are challenged. Parents are informed and a record will be kept. All racist incidents are reported to the Governing Body (within the Headteacher's Report) and an annual summary of racist incidents is reported to BwD Local Authority.

### **Disability**

#### **What is a disability?**

- Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. That effect must be:  
substantial (more than minor or trivial)

adverse

long-term (it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year or for the rest of the life of the person affected).

There is no need for a person to have a specific, medically-diagnosed cause for their impairment – what matters is the effect of the impairment, not the cause.

Examples include hearing or sight impairments, a significant mobility difficulty, mental health conditions or learning difficulties. There are many other types of condition, illness or injury that can result in a person being *disabled* (e.g. diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart conditions, facial disfigurement).

#### **General duties**

- Promote equality of opportunity
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Eliminate disability-related harassment
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encourage disabled people's participation in public life
- Take steps to take into account people's disabilities.

## **GENDER**

The term gender includes boys, girls, men and women, and transgender/transsexual people. Sexual orientation is a distinct protected characteristic. (The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender).

### **What is the difference between sex and gender?**

- Sex refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.
- Gender is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women. While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be.

### **Sexual Orientation**

**Heterosexism** is any prejudice and discrimination against individuals and groups who are lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) or are perceived to be so. It is based on the assumption that everyone is or should be heterosexual. Expressions of dislike, contempt or fear based on heterosexism are usually known as **homophobia**, although **lesophobia** and **biphobia** are also coming into use.

Whether through institutional practice or personal behaviour, the prevalence of heterosexism is likely to mean that LGB people feel excluded and unsafe. This effect can be mitigated by an actively welcoming and supportive environment.

**Sexual orientation** is defined as an individual's sexual orientation towards people of the same sex as her or him (gay or lesbian), people of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or people of both sexes (bisexual).

### **General duties**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
- Promote equality of opportunity between male and female pupils and between men and women
- Promote good relations

### **Specific duties**

- From April 2007, prepare and publish a Gender Equality Scheme, showing how the school will meet its general and specific duties and set out its gender equality objectives, as well as its plans for stakeholder consultation and impact assessment
- Monitor the scheme annually and review it every three years.

### **Transgenderism and gender re-assignment**

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Gender re-assignment is the process a transgender person goes through to change sex