



Idsall School

Single Equalities Policy

Sponsorship & Review

1 Sponsor

Mrs Cath Cork, Assistant Headteacher Pupil Support & Inclusion

2 Written and Approved

January 2021

3 Next Review Date

January 2022

Statement of Principle

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and trustees of Idsall 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 students in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:

- Students
- Staff
- Parents/carers
- The governing board
- 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 Idsall 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.

Statutory requirements

The Equality Act 2010 has brought together all the current discrimination laws into one and sets out the “protected characteristics” that qualify for protection from discrimination as:

- Age (relevant in considering our duties as an employer, but not in relation to students)
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex; and
- Sexual orientation

Idsall School in context

For information regarding gender and ethnicity split of students and staff, please make a request via email to: info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk

For information regarding the gender and ethnicity split of the governing board, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees via email to Clerkoftrustees@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk

Ethos and Atmosphere

- At Idsall 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 students 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 of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities

This policy applies to the whole school community.

Idsall 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 a 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 students/students. We make regular assessments of students' learning and use this information to track students' 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 students 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 students where the information suggests that progress is not as good as it should be.

The Senior Leadership Team receives regular updates on student performance information. School performance information is compared to national data and local authority data, to ensure that students are making appropriate progress when compared to all schools, and to schools in similar circumstances.

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

- Attendance
- Exclusions and truancy
- 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 student performance and provide specific support and intervention 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.

Idsall School is also committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation. We recognise that students identified as having additional needs are particularly vulnerable. We aim to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and establish a governing board that is representative of all sections of the community in order to respect and respond to the diverse needs of our population.

All applications are made via school application forms and contain relevant sections relating to equality.

Learning and Teaching

We aim to provide all our students 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 students 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 students 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 students' 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 subject leaders' departments, 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 student groups
- Take account of the performance of all students when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all groups of students
- Identify resources and training that support staff development

Learning Environment

There is a consistently high expectation of all students regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

All students 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.

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

Curriculum

At Idsall School, we aim to ensure that:

- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality and diversity
- Students will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality – recognising the importance of British values and culture
- Steps are taken to ensure that all students have access to the mainstream curriculum by taking into account their cultural backgrounds, linguistic needs and learning styles
- All students have access to qualifications which recognise attainment and achievement and promote progression

Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within Idsall School is a high priority. These resources should:

- Reflect the reality of an ethnically, culturally and sexually diverse society
- Reflect and celebrate British values and culture
- 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 Idsall 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

Provision for Bi-lingual Students

We undertake at Idsall School to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bi-lingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups may include:

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

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 students
- All students are encouraged to consider the full range of career opportunities available to them with no discriminatory boundaries placed on them due to their disability, gender, race or sexual orientation (whilst acknowledging that a disability may impose some practical boundaries to some career aspirations)
- All students/staff/parents/carers are given support, as appropriate, when they experience discrimination
- We recognise that perpetrators may also be victims and require support
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of students can see themselves reflected in the school community
- Emphasis is placed on the value that diversity brings to the school community rather than the challenges

Staffing and Staff Development

Through Idsall School Single Equalities Policy, we recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff:

- This must include students' access to a balance of male and female staff at all key stages 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 students
- 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

Note:

Under the Equality Act 2010, in very limited circumstances, an employer can claim that a certain religious denomination or belief is considered to be a genuine occupational requirement of that role. An aided school may be able to rely on this for some roles in school, particularly those roles that provide spiritual leadership.

However, this would not apply for all staff in School. In addition, there are also instances in which a job will qualify for a genuine occupational requirement on the grounds of gender. However, only in very few instances would this be permissible, for example, where the job is likely to involve physical contact with members of the opposite sex, where matters of decency or privacy are involved.

Partnerships with Parents/Carers/Families and the Wider Community

- We will work with parents/carers to help all students to achieve their potential
- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school
- Members of the local community are encouraged to join in school activities
- Our governing board will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this policy
- 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 board
- 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 to incidents of discrimination and harassment, 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 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

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

This policy will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on students, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. An action plan will be published to enable an impact assessment to be undertaken at the appropriate time within a given timescale.

Our equality policy and action plan are available on our school website.

We are legally required to report annually on our progress and performance in respect of our policy covering ethnicity, disability and gender.

Single Equalities Action Plan 2020/2021

Objective 1

- To narrow the gap between FSM and non-FSM students achieving expected progress in English and Maths.
- To ensure there are no barriers to achievement for students on Free School Meals.
- To continue to focus on FSM and, other students identified as Disadvantaged, achievement and progress, ensuring appropriate support is put into place if/when required.
- GCSE data will be the measurable evidence of success.
- One of the Whole School Priorities continues to be further narrowing the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.

Objective 2

- To narrow the gap between the percentage of students gaining English and not Maths at Grade 5 or higher.
- To ensure that all students who should gain English and Maths, do so.
- Assistant Headteacher with specific responsibility for Raising Attainment will work with the necessary heads of department to drive a policy of support and intervention.
- GCSE data will be the measurable evidence of success.

Objective 3

- To narrow the gap in attendance and progress rates between SEND and non-SEND students throughout the school.
- SEND students included in any intervention programme for mentoring/additional input.
- To ensure SEND students' attendance improves so that they are able to access the entire curriculum.
- Attendance Officer will work with the Senior Learning Manager who oversees attendance to closely monitor students' attendance, intervention plans and support packages to improve attendance rates.
- Attendance rates produced by the Attendance Officer/EWO will be evidence of success.

Objective 4

- To narrow the gap between students identified at SEND EHCP and SEN Support and students not identified as SEND.

Objective 5

- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the teaching of the curriculum, school assemblies, educational visits, external speakers and extra-curricular provision with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity.

January 2021