



Equality Policy (inc. Objectives)

Review September 2024

Herrick Primary School would like to be recognised as a school who provides to the community, an inclusive, safe, caring and stimulating environment in which to learn.

Equality Statement

At Herrick Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents, and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all.

At Herrick Primary, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach, and visit here.

Legal Duties

At Herrick Primary School we welcome our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#). The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination,
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

We understand the principal of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity. Protected characteristics make up the part of a person's identity that makes them who they are, such aspects or characteristics are protected from discrimination. Everyone in Britain is protected from unlawful behaviour by the Act.

The protected characteristics are as follows:

- age
- disability
- race
- sex
- gender reassignment
- maternity and pregnancy
- religion and belief
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership (for employees)

We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights' standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998. In developing our policy, we have therefore also taken them into consideration.

To meet our general duties, listed above, the law requires us to carry out some specific duties to demonstrate how we meet the general duties.

These are to:

- Publish Equality Information – to demonstrate compliance with the general duty across its functions (**We will not publish any information that can specifically identify any individual**)
- Prepare and publish equality objectives which we will review on an annual basis
- Consult all our stakeholders in the development of our equality objectives and report on progress against our objectives on an annual basis

To do this effectively we will collect data related to the protected characteristics above and analyse this data to determine our focus for our equality objectives. The data will be assessed across our core provisions as a school, but we will also analyse available data relating to the context of our local community, including hate crime data and demographic information. In relation to school provision, we will pay particular attention to the following functions:

- Admissions
- Attendance
- Attainment
- Exclusions
- Prejudice-related incidents
- Curriculum
- Complaints/compliments

Our objectives will detail how we will ensure equality is applied to the services listed above, however where we find evidence that other functions have a significant impact on any group, we will include work in this area.

We also recognise that our work on equality is central to the successful promotion of fundamental British values, especially in relation to the values of respect and tolerance and the rule of law. We will therefore ensure that our curriculum helps to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We will work proactively to address all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including derogatory and discriminatory language. We will mainly do this through the delivery of our statutory RSE / PSHE Curriculum. We will also utilise all other subject areas to foster positive relations and to ensure that we consciously cultivate opportunities to challenge stereotypes and support positive identity development for all our pupils. We will regularly audit our resources, displays, lesson content, and assessment processes to ensure that they meet the needs of all groups. We will scrutinise outcomes across a range of measures, analyse the results and address any identified areas of concern.

In endeavouring to fulfil our legal duties, we will:

- Recognise and respect diversity
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of belonging
- Observe good equalities' practice, including staff recruitment, retention, and development
- Aim to identify, reduce, and remove existing inequalities and barriers
- Consult and involve widely
- Regularly review our progress

Definitions

Discrimination is unfair treatment towards another or a group of individuals who share one or some of the protected characteristics.

Direct Discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than others because of a protected characteristic.

Discrimination by Association occurs when someone is treated less favourably because someone they are associated with, such as a friend, family member or carer, has a protected characteristic.

Direct Discrimination by Perception occurs when someone is treated less favourably because someone believes they have a protected characteristic, regardless of whether their perception is correct or not.

Indirect discrimination can be more difficult to identify and sometimes is not intended. It can occur due to a lack of understanding of the law or a genuine error of judgement about an individual. For example, a policy that is applied to all individuals equally may inadvertently disadvantage individuals or groups who have a protected characteristic. It is therefore essential that all aspects of school life and policies are scrutinised carefully to avoid any unlawful provision, criterion, or practice.

Victimisation occurs when an individual has either raised a complaint or grievance that they have been discriminated against based on having a protected characteristic; or has supported someone who has raised a complaint or grievance.

Harassment is any form of unwanted behaviour intended to violate an individual's dignity or create an environment which may be described as hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive. The victim will be subject to this harassment based on a protected characteristic or the perception that they have a protected characteristic, or because they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic.

Prejudice can be conscious or unconscious and involves stereotypes, pre-judgements, and beliefs (which are usually negative) about an individual, or group of people, based on a protected characteristic.

Our Vision Statement

'Every Child Matters'

*At the heart of our vision for Herrick lies **the child**. All children are different - all children are special and should be treated as such. Our primary purpose is to enhance the quality of children's learning through the effective and efficient delivery of the curriculum enabling them to reach their full potential.*

We are committed to honesty, sensitivity, and responsibility in all relationships. We will adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement in every aspect of the school's work and life.

Roles and Responsibilities

We believe that promoting Equality is the whole school's responsibility.

| School Community | Responsibility |
|------------------------|---|
| Governing Body | <p>Involve and engage the whole school community in identifying and understanding equality barriers and in the setting of objectives to address these.</p> <p>Monitor progress towards achieving equality objectives.</p> <p>Publish data and publish equality objectives.</p> <p>Ensure that staff have access to appropriate training and resources.</p> |
| Head Teacher | <p>As above including:</p> <p>Promote key messages to staff, parents/carers, and pupils about equality and what is expected of them and can be expected from the school in carrying out its day-to-day duties.</p> <p>Ensure that all in the school community receive adequate training to meet the need of delivering equality, including pupil awareness.</p> <p>Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.</p> |
| Senior Management Team | <p>To support the Head Teacher as above and -</p> <p>Ensure fair treatment and access to services and opportunities.</p> <p>Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.</p> |
| Teaching Staff | <p>Help in delivering the right outcomes for pupils.</p> <p>Uphold the commitment made to pupils and parents/carers on how they can be expected to be treated.</p> <p>Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum.</p> <p>Record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.</p> |
| Support Staff | <p>Support the school and the governing body in delivering a fair and equitable service.</p> <p>Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher on how pupils and parents/carers can be expected to be treated.</p> <p>Support colleagues within the school.</p> <p>Record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.</p> |
| Parents/Carers | <p>Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the governing body of actions that can be taken to eradicate these. Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment given to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.</p> <p>Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated.</p> |
| Pupils | <p>Support the school to achieve the commitment made to tackling inequality. Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated.</p> <p>Report prejudice-based incidents to a trusted adult.</p> |

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|-----------------|---|
| Local Community | Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the school of actions that can be taken to eradicate these. Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment made to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all. |
|-----------------|---|

We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Equality Policy and our published equality information and equality objectives by publishing them on the school website.

Preventing and Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

We define prejudice-based incidents/bullying in the following way:

Prejudice-related incidents/bullying – derogatory and discriminatory language and behaviour including that which is racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disablist in nature. This language and behaviour may be directed towards people because of their race/ethnicity/nationality; because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans, or are perceived to be, or have a parent/carer, sibling, or friend who is, or because they have a learning or physical disability. It may include misogyny or misandry and be sexist in nature. Such language and behaviour are generally used to refer to something or someone as inferior.

At Herrick Primary School we encourage open discussions around differences between people, we actively challenge prejudice, and we celebrate diversity. This school is opposed to all forms of prejudice, and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fair less well in the education system. We recognise that prejudice-based bullying is a form of child-on-child abuse and is therefore a safeguarding concern, as outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#). We adopt a contextual safeguarding, trauma-informed & strengths-based approach to bullying and child-on-child abuse.

We are committed to working with families and outside agencies to proactively prevent incidents and to create an environment in which all members of our school community feel welcomed, accepted, and safe. We believe every member of our community should be treated with respect and should not be subjected to prejudice or discrimination in any form. This includes staff, parents/carers, governors, and visitors to our school.

We provide both our pupils and staff with an awareness of the impact of prejudice to prevent any incidents. We will endeavour to proactively tackle all forms of prejudice by ensuring our curriculum is representative of all sections of society and the contributions made by people with different characteristics are consciously embedded across all subjects. In doing so, we will challenge stereotypes and work towards inclusivity and identity-safe classrooms where everyone feels validated, accepted, safe and a sense of belonging.

If incidents still occur, we will address them immediately ensuring that appropriate levels of support are provided to those affected; that we thoroughly investigate all reports/allegations; and that we will apply appropriate sanctions and address offending behaviours through a programme of education. All adults in our school community are expected to comply with the school's Code of Conduct. Any allegations made against staff will be investigated in line with our policies and procedures relating to staff conduct and behaviour. Any staff member/parent/carer, governor or visitor to the school, who is subjected to prejudice-based abuse can expect to have their complaint thoroughly investigated and will be supported in accordance with their wishes.

We review our practice following each incident including what more we might do to prevent further incidents. We recognise that we must not become complacent and will regularly evaluate satisfaction levels in respect of how we have responded to any reports or concerns raised.

Pupils, Including Bystanders/Witnesses

We talk about trusted adults regularly in school to remind our pupils of who they can report concerns to. The definitions of **victim**, **perpetrator** and **bystander** are clarified to all pupils regularly to develop a shared understanding.

- We emphasise the importance of all pupils (whether a victim or a bystander) reporting concerns of bullying or bullying behaviour to a member of school staff – this can be any member of teaching or non-teaching staff, including a class teacher, a teaching assistant, the head teacher, a lunchtime supervisor, or a member of the office team.
- The member of staff will **listen** to the pupil and make an initial note of their concerns, they will then discuss next steps with them and reassure them that they will be supported. All staff have received training on how they are to handle any conversation of concern with a child.
- The member of staff will make a formal record of the bullying report on the school's recording system - (CPOMs) and other relevant members of staff will be alerted.
- The member of staff will directly alert the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead if the report is deemed urgent or if a pupil is considered at risk.
- Even if the behaviour/incident which has been reported is deemed 'not bullying' and is thought to be 'relational conflict', school staff will still support the pupils involved and help them to resolve any concerns.

We understand that some pupils may find it difficult to tell a member of staff about their concerns verbally, we therefore have additional reporting mechanisms in place. Herrick has a Red post box in each classroom where the pupil can put their name/a brief note about their concerns (either written or drawn). These worry boxes are introduced to the pupils at the start of the year and pupils are reminded of them regularly. The classteacher will check the box at the end of each day and take any necessary action.

Parents/Carers

We understand that it can be very difficult for a parent/carer to hear that their child has been the target of bullying, has experienced bullying behaviour or is an alleged perpetrator of bullying.

We ask that parents/carers report their concerns directly to the school rather than discussing them with other members of the school community, either in person or online.

The following steps will be taken to investigate:

- Initially, we ask parents/carers to contact their child's class teacher (in person/via telephone call/via year group email) to explain their concerns.
- The class teacher will take an initial note of the concerns but may ask to schedule a meeting to allow for more time to discuss these in detail.
- The school's Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Arzu Aydin) will be informed if the allegation is deemed urgent or if a pupil is considered at risk.

- Following an allegation, the class teacher will make a formal record of this on the school's recording system (CPOMs).
- An investigation into the allegation will be carried out and appropriate follow-up actions identified and taken.

Our school remains committed to supporting pupils and their families in all instances of bullying and relational conflict and will respond to reports promptly. Even if the behaviour/incident which has been reported is deemed 'not bullying' and is thought to be 'relational conflict', school staff will still support the pupils involved and help them to resolve any concerns.

We will endeavour to ensure that all parties are kept informed of progress and any developments, but we will also need to show due regard to GDPR. This may mean, at times, that we are not able to provide or share information or updates.

School Staff

Our staff work closely with our pupils and therefore may notice a change in a pupil's behaviour or attitude that might indicate that something is wrong before receiving a report from a pupil or a member of the school community.

If staff have any concerns about a pupil's welfare or are concerned that a pupil is displaying behaviours that may show they are the target of bullying or perhaps perpetrating bullying, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told, following the procedures outlined above in the 'Parents/Carers' section.

Complaints

If a parent/carer is not satisfied with our school's actions, we ask that they follow our school's complaint policy and procedures. This is available online from our school website and by request from the school office.

| Policy | How it may link |
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| Safeguarding Policy | Includes information about child protection procedures and contextualised safeguarding |
| Behaviour Policy | Includes details about the school's behaviour system including potential sanctions for pupils |
| Anti-Bullying Policy | Includes information about bullying behaviours and vulnerable groups (appendix to Behaviour Policy) |
| Online Safety / E-Safety / Acceptable Use Policies | Includes information about children's online behaviour and information regarding online bullying/cyberbullying |
| Child-on-Child Abuse Policy | Includes links to bullying (Appendix to Safeguarding Policy) |
| RSHE / PSHE Policy | Includes information about our school's RSHE programme and how we teach about healthy relationships, friendships, diversity and bullying |
| Complaints Policy | Includes information about how to make a complaint if you are not satisfied with any aspect of the school |

Equality Objectives

In order to meet our school's general and specific duties under the Equality Act 2010, the following information has been prepared.

Stage 1: Understanding Our School Community – Pupils

What is the school profile?

| Gender | |
|--------|-----|
| Girls | 186 |
| Boys | 186 |

- How many children are on roll at the school? **372**
- Information on pupils collected by protected characteristics

The following information was correct as of August 2023:

| Ethnic Categories | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----|
| White British | 10 | White & Black Caribbean | 2 | Indian | 140 | Any Other Black Background | 6 |
| Irish | 0 | White & Asian | 1 | Pakistani | 4 | Refugee | 0 |
| Any other white background | 2 | White & Black African | 6 | Bangladeshi | 2 | Asylum Seeker | 0 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage | 0 | Any Other Mixed Background | 6 | Any other Asian background | 152 | Any Other Ethnic Group | 22 |
| Gypsy/Roma | 0 | Chinese | 1 | Black Caribbean | 1 | Information Refused | 1 |
| White European | 10 | Any other Chinese background | 0 | Black African | 2 | Information Not Obtained | 4 |

SEN (Special Educational Needs) Categories

We have a range of SEN categories which include:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Social, Emotional & Mental Health | Speech, Language or Communication | Moderate Learning difficulty |
| Vision Impairment | Physical disabilities | Other Difficulty |
| SEN children without an EHCP: 26 | SEN children with an EHCP: 2 | Non SEN children: 344 |

| Deprivation | Number | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| Pupil Premium* <i>* Any pupil in receipt of Free School Meals at any time during the last 6 years</i> | 36 | 9.7% |
| Non-Pupil Premium | 372 | 90.3% |

Religion & Belief

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|--------|-----|----------------|----|
| Sikh | 41 | Hindu | 169 | No Religion | 8 |
| Buddhist | 5 | Jewish | 0 | Other Religion | 18 |
| Christian | 28 | Muslim | 88 | Unknown | 15 |

No Information is available on the following protected characteristics which are not relevant to the Primary Age Range:

- **Gender Reassignment** - The school did not have any information on whether any of the children on roll had reassigned their gender as the question had never been asked as it was not appropriate to the Primary age range.
- **Sexual Identity** - The school did not have information on whether any of the pupils on roll identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender (LGBT) as the question had never been asked as it was not appropriate to the Primary age range.

Stage 2: Understanding the Information Gathered

Using the monitoring information gathered the school looked at the following to identify whether there were any obvious gaps or potential issues for pupils in relation to the protected characteristics:

- Admissions
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Engagement in school activities
- Exclusions
- Prejudice related incidents
- Rewards and sanctions
- Representation on school bodies e.g school councils,

Following our analysis, we have developed four Equality Objectives in order to meet the following requirements of the Equality Act:

- Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance Equality of Opportunity, between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster Good Relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Objective 1: Attendance

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|---------------------------|---|
| Equality Objective | To embed the importance of good attendance within the culture of the whole school community to secure equality of opportunity for pupil engagement, attainment and progress. |
| Why | Pre Covid whole school attendance had reached 97%. Post Covid whole school attendance has fallen significantly which if allowed to continue will impact on pupil's ability to make progress. |
| How | The deployment of a school attendance officer/family support worker promotes positive relationships with parents and carers within the school community. Weekly attendance monitoring, concern letters, meetings with parents and if necessary, fines. The use of positive rewards gives recognition to pupils with good attendance. |
| Outcome | Whole School Attendance again reaches the school target of 97%. |

Objective 2: Attainment

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|---------------------------|---|
| Equality Objective | To continue to close the gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils in reading. |
| Why | The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils in reading is significant. |
| How | <p>A whole school focus on reading is prioritised across the curriculum to ensure the best outcomes in all areas of learning. This, alongside the provision of high-quality staff CPD, ensures the most effective, current practice occurs in the teaching of reading. Where pupils are not attaining age-related expectations, targeted interventions are used to address identified gaps leading to accelerated progress.</p> <p>The reading for pleasure agenda, and pupils' access to high-quality texts is upheld through the provision of high quality, age-appropriate books stored in class treasure chests for pupils to access both at home and school, thus ensuring that all pupils, regardless of background or circumstance have access to these.</p> |
| Outcome | The gap in performance will be narrowed with the majority of our pupils achieving ARE in reading by the end of Key Stage 2, thus giving our disadvantaged pupils the best chance of academic success at secondary school. |

Objective 3: Understanding and Valuing Diversity

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|---------------------------|---|
| Equality Objective | To increase understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion by the whole school community including SLT, governors, staff, pupils and parents. |
| Why | The school's SEND population is changing with an increasing proportion of pupils now demonstrating needs relating to communication & interaction or social, emotional & mental health (51% of our SEND Register). There is a need to educate the school community thereby developing greater understanding, tolerance and empathy in relation to the needs of neurodiverse pupils. |
| How | <p>CPD for all class teachers to improve their knowledge and understanding of how to remove potential barriers and maximise progress for SEND pupils.</p> <p>Sharply focused SEMH interventions are used to support individuals' specific areas of need in relation to the above areas. The aim of the interventions is to support pupils to better understand themselves in order for them to develop strategies to enable them to engage successfully and happily in school and the wider community.</p> <p>Parents are kept informed about the children's learning in relation to the school Values via displays, the school newsletter and parents' evenings.</p> |
| Outcome | Staff have improved skills and understanding of the needs of SEND pupils and are more confident in adapting the curriculum to meet those needs. The whole school community, including staff, pupils and parents show respect and understanding to others. |

Objective 4: Prejudice

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|---------------------------|---|
| Equality Objective | To educate pupils in relation to their understanding of prejudice and inequality in all its forms. |
| Why | There have been a number of incidents in school in the last year particularly, involving the use of prejudice language linked predominantly to the protected characteristics of race and sexuality. |
| How | Implementation of carefully designed PSHE/RSE and Religious Education curriculums deepen pupils' understanding of differences within our community and teach them to value these. The school values promote a shared understanding of the importance of positive relationships in all aspects of school life and the wider communities to which children belong. |
| Outcome | To eradicate incidents of prejudice behaviour – this is shown through a reduced number of incidents logged on the school's reporting system. |

Objective 5: Race and Religion

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| Equality Objective | To use the curriculum to find out about different religions and cultures and celebrate diversity. |
| Why | Our data indicates that the composition of our school is predominately White, British, Christian with minority representation in other ethnic and religious groups. |
| How | In order to address and celebrate our cultural diversity we will continue to deliver a PSHE/RSE Programme which explores and values cultural difference. This, alongside a robust RE syllabus which incorporates the use of both visitors and visits to different places of worship, as part of our school curriculum activities, will develop a deep understanding of other cultures. The curriculum will be the vehicle to teach pupils about British Values which extend beyond their own personal experience into areas such as citizenship, democracy and traditional folk heritage. We actively aim to instil aspiration and ambition in our pupils by exposing them to a wide range of cultural experiences including visits, visitors and wider opportunities. |
| Outcome | Pupils will progressively develop their understanding of, and empathy for, people from different regions, races, religions and cultures. The curriculum (through a range of learning opportunities) will provide a clear structure for promoting and championing the importance of racial equality. |

Evaluating Impact

We will engage with our school community to ensure the objectives identified are the most appropriate given the needs of the school at the current time. The Local Governing Body will monitor progress on all Equality Objectives.