

# **Greasby Infant School Single Equality Plan January 2022**



# Check list for school staff and governors

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- ☒ Is information collected on race, disability and gender with regards to both pupils and staff e.g. pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions, staff training? Is this information used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities the school provides?
- ☒ How has your Equality Plan been shaped by the views, input and involvement of staff, parents and pupils?
- ☒ Is pupil achievement analysed by race, disability and gender? Are there trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action, and has action been taken to address these?
- ☒ Does the curriculum include opportunities to understand the issues related to race, disability and gender?
- ☒ Are all pupils encouraged to participate in school life? Are pupils who make a positive contribution reflective of the school's diversity e.g. through class assemblies / school council?
- ☒ Is bullying and harassment of pupils and staff monitored by race, disability and gender, and is this information used to make a difference to the experience of other pupils? Are racist incidents reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis?
- ☒ Are visual displays reflective of the diversity of your school community? How are minority ethnic, disabled and both male and female role models promoted positively in lessons, displays and discussions such as circle time and class assemblies?
- ☒ Does the school take part in annual events such as European Languages Day and One World Week to raise awareness of issues around race, disability and gender?
- ☒ Is the school environment as accessible as possible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school? Are open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend held in an accessible part of the school, and are issues such as language barriers considered?
- ☒ Are the accessibility needs of parents, pupils and staff considered in the publishing and sending out of information, in terms of race, disability and gender?
- ☒ Are procedures for the election of parent governors open to candidates and voters who are disabled?

# Greasby Infant School



## Single Equality Plan

### 1. Mission statement

We aim to provide a happy, relaxed environment where children are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential, and to develop an attitude of care and responsibility towards others and their surroundings.

We ensure that the children in this school will attain the highest standards of which they are capable. We encourage the children to be independent and self-confident and we believe that this can be achieved more readily when teachers, parents and pupils work together in partnership.

### 2. Aims

At Greasby Infant School we will:

- Respect the equal human rights of all our pupils
- Educate pupils about equality
- Respect the equal rights of our staff and others members of the school community
- Consider the impact of school policies and procedures in relation to ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, gender, disability, sexual orientation and age.
- Promote community cohesion at school, national and global levels.

### Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

### Teaching and learning

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

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps;
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;
- Ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;

- Including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.
- Encourage pupils to become independent and assist them in taking responsibility for their own learning and behaviour

### **Admissions and exclusions**

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's Behaviour Policy. Should the need to exclude arise, we would closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

### **3. Equal Opportunities for Staff**

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Greasby Infant School.

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law. However we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community.

#### **Employer duties**

As an employer we need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

Equality aspects such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention including bullying and harassment of staff;
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

### **4. Equality and the law**

The Equality Act 2010 replaces many of the other statutory duties and regulations that deal with equality and discrimination (Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, Disability Equality Duty 2005 and Equality Act 2006). The Act covers all aspects of school life to do with how a school treats pupils, prospective pupils, parents and carers, employees and members of the community. Everything a school does must be fair and non-discriminatory.

Since April 2011, schools have also been bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty. Schools are required to have "due regard" to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

Two specific duties for schools are:

- To publish information to show how they are complying with the Equality Duty and update annually. (As a minimum this should include information on the diversity of the school population and how the school is performing in relation to the aims of the equality duty).
- To prepare and publish specific measurable equality objectives at least every four years.

It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

These are called protected characteristics.

The action plan at the end of this Single Equality Plan outlines the actions Greasby Infant School will take to meet the equality duty.

#### **4a. Race Equality**

This section of the plan reflects the general and specific duties of schools as detailed in The Race Relations Act 1976 and as amended by The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

The General Race Equality Duty requires us to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination;
- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare an Equality Plan which includes our written policy for race equality;
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this Plan, on pupils, staff and parents by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these pupils;
- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such pupils, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups.

#### **4b. Disability**

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Disability Policy and Inclusion Policy.

##### **Definition of disability**

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The DDA 2005 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities;
- Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is “clinically well-recognised”, although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse impact on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

## **Legal duties**

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005 placed a general duty on schools, requiring them to have due regard for the following when carrying out and delivering services:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- Eliminating discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people’s needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Single Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme identifying our disability equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Through the Governing Body, review and revise this Plan on an annual basis.

## **4c. Gender Equality**

The Gender Equality Duty 2006 places a general and specific duty on schools to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of gender and to promote equality of opportunity between female and male pupils and between women and men and transgender people.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex and gender reassignment;
- Promote equality between men and women.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Gender Equality Scheme identifying our gender equality goals and actions to meet them;
- Through the Governing Body, review and revise this Plan on an annual basis.

## **4d. Sexual Orientation**

The Equality Act 2006 made provision for regulations to be introduced to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of religion or belief to sexual orientation.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 came into force on 30 April 2007, and they make discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools this means admissions, benefits and services for pupils and treatment of pupils.

#### **4e. Community cohesion**

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

#### **5. Consultation and involvement**

It is a requirement that the development of this plan and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from the annual parent questionnaire, parents' evenings, online consultation group or governors meetings;
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET;
- Feedback from the school council, PSHE lessons, school council pupil surveys and information on children's attitudes to self and school;
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans/Provision Maps, mentoring and support;
- Feedback at Governing body meetings.

#### **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **The role of governors**

- The governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this plan and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils, and responsive to their needs based on all protected characteristics.
- The governing body seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school.
- The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible for parents, carers and pupils.
- The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever a child's socio-economic background, race, gender or disability.
- The governing body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school based on the protected characteristics.

##### **The role of the headteacher**

- It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's Single Equality Plan and she is supported by the governing body in doing so.
- It is the headteacher's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Single Equality Plan, and understand their responsibilities within it applying these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- The headteacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this plan, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.
- The headteacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life.
- The headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness.

### **The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching**

- All staff are responsible for promoting equality and community cohesion, fostering good relations and tackling bias and stereotyping.
- All staff will ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's Single Equality Plan.
- All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images.
- All staff will challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the headteacher.
- Teachers support the work of ancillary or support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents.
- Staff are responsible for maintaining up to date knowledge related to all aspects of equality.

## **7. Tackling discrimination**

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a pupil's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher / headteacher where necessary. All incidents are reported to the headteacher and racist incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis.

### **What is a discriminatory incident?**

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as:  
'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

### **Types of discriminatory incident**

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

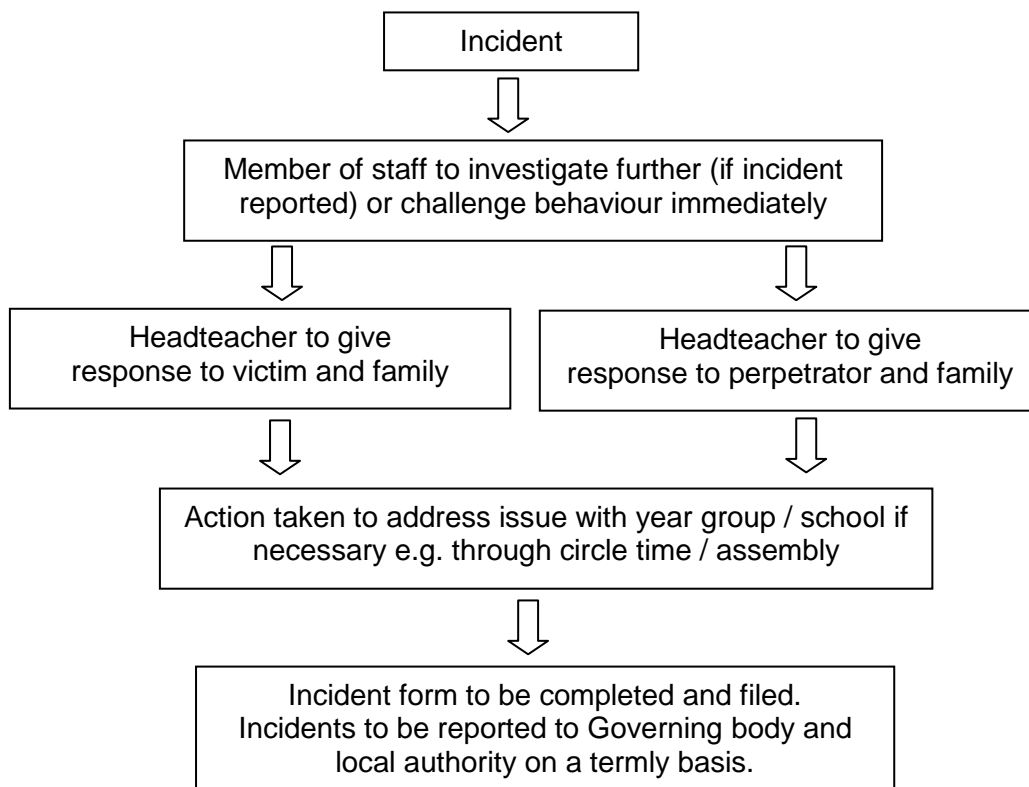
- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;

- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

## Responding to and reporting incidents

It should be clear to pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.

A suggested procedure for responding and reporting is outlined below:



## 8. Review of progress and impact

The Plan has been agreed by our Governing Body. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with legislative requirements, we will review progress against our Single Equality Plan annually and review the entire plan and accompanying action plan at least on a two year cycle.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupil progress. As part of this process, we regularly monitor achievement of ALL children, for this plan we monitor specifically by ethnicity, gender and disability, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress, and take appropriate action to address any gaps.

## **9. Publishing the plan**

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

- Publish our plan on the school website;
- Raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications;
- Make sure hard copies are available.
- Complete an equality impact assessment, updating documentation as necessary
- Collate information related to our equality objectives from the whole school community

## 10. ACTION PLAN

The duty to report racist incidents and the publication of the Equality Plan to meet the Disability and Gender Equality legislation must be included in the action plan below.

For further examples of actions please see Appendix A. You may also wish to cross reference the action plan with actions in other documents e.g. School Improvement Plan / Inclusion Policy / Special Educational Needs Policy.

Equality Strand	Objective and Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes ?	Early success indicators
All	Review and promote the Single Equality Plan through the school website, newsletter and staff meetings.	Consult with staff and the wider school community regarding understanding of the Equality Scheme.	SLT	Spring Term 2022	Parents appear to be aware of the Single Equality Plan, but could be promoted more via the website
All	Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.	Achievement data analysed by race, gender and disability	Deputy Head & SENDCO	Termly through Focus Files End of KS data Vulnerable groups tracking	Analysis of TA / annual data indicates the gap between equality groups and others is varied depending on the cohort, year on year. This is monitored closely.
All	Ensure that the curriculum promotes role models and heroes that young people positively identify with, which reflects the school's diversity in terms of race, gender and disability.	Increase in pupils' participation, confidence and achievement levels	Curriculum Leaders	Ongoing	Greater global awareness through key weeks and whole school activities.
All	To educate the whole school community about the human right to sanctuary and demonstrate commitment to the School of Sanctuary	Work closely with MEAS to audit school policies and procedures and apply to become a School of Sanctuary	HT, SLT, VC & HB	Spring and Summer Term 2022	Completed self-assessment will indicate that the school can proceed with the SoS application.
All	Recognise and represent the talents of disabled pupils in activities and ensure representation fully reflects the school population in terms of race and gender.	Range of activities monitored to ensure equality of access. New Jigsaw Scheme and Foundation Subject assessments.	PHSE Lead, Deputy Head & Governing body	Ongoing	Sporting and other events are accessible to all pupils and reflects the school's diversity.

## 10. ACTION PLAN

Equality Strand	Objective and Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes ?	Early success indicators
All	Ensure that displays in classrooms and corridors promote diversity in terms of race, gender and ethnicity.	Increase pupil participation, confidence and positive identity through monitoring PSHE & RE activities	Headteacher, PSHE Leader, MFL Teacher & Governing body	Ongoing	Diversity reflected in school displays across all year groups, e.g. Global Learning, books reflecting disability
All	Ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school e.g. through involvement in the School Council, Eco Council by election or co-option), class assemblies, fund raising etc.	School Council and Eco Council representation monitored by race, gender, disability	SLT, Global Learning Lead and Headteacher	Annually	Greater diversity in school council and eco council membership. Global learning used to promote range of pupil and family backgrounds.
Race Equality Duty	Identify, respond and report racist incidents as outlined in the Plan. Report the figures to the Governing body / Local Authority on a termly basis.	The Headteacher / Governing body will use the data to assess the impact of the school's response to incidents i.e. have whole school / year group approaches led to a decrease in incidents, can repeat perpetrators be identified, are pupils and parents satisfied with the response?	Headteacher / Governing body	Reporting: December, April, July	Teaching staff are aware of and respond to racist incidents Engage with "My Esteem" to challenge and manage issues. Support available from the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service. Consistent nil reporting to be challenged by the Governing Body
Disability Equality Duty	Promote Governor vacancies with information in accessible formats.	Monitoring of applications by disability to see if there is a range of applications	Governing Body	Ongoing as vacancies become available	Increased number of applications from range of equality groups
Community Cohesion	Celebrate cultural events throughout the year to increase pupil awareness and understanding of different communities e.g. Diwali, Eid, Christmas.	Language Festivals, MFL teaching and learning, SEAL, Circle time, Jigsaw Scheme	MFL lead, PSHE lead	Ongoing	Increased awareness of different communities shown in teaching and learning and greater cultural awareness. Jigsaw weekly activities used to promote cultural

## 10. ACTION PLAN

Equality Strand	Objective and Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes ?	Early success indicators
					awareness
Access Plan	All parents to be reminded of the school policy not to park in the school car park without permission from the school.	HT to inform parents via newsletters, Website etc	HT, office manager	Start of each year	Safer access for all children during school hours
Access Plan	To ensure that all pupils and parents safely access school during the Covid-19 pandemic but maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks and following local and national guidance	HT to inform parents via newsletters, Website etc	HT, office manager, caretaker, all staff	At the start of each half term, during lockdown and ongoing throughout the pandemic	Safe entry and exit from school for all members of the school community
Access plan	To ensure that parents and visitors with disabilities have access to all areas of school. HT to contact parents re disability info and update school asset management priorities.	HT to discuss priorities with GB and LA to plan for school improvements	HT, office manager Governing Body	Start of each year and ongoing as needed	The school building is accessible for parents and visitors with disabilities

## **Appendix A**

### **Examples of further actions to include in the action plan to meet the general duties**

#### **ENSURING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION**

##### **The school will ensure that:**

- Pupil achievement is monitored by race, gender and disability and any trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action to narrow the gap are addressed;
- All staff are aware of the school's Single Equality Plan;
- The talents of disabled pupils are recognised and represented in Gifted and Talented programmes, and representation fully reflects the school population in terms of race and gender;
- There is an inclusive approach to ensuring all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school e.g. through involvement in the School Council; class assemblies; fund raising etc;
- Disabled children can take part in all aspects of the curriculum, including educational visits and journeys; lunchtime activities; PE and dance and assemblies;
- Extended school activities such as Windmills and after-school clubs take into account pupil needs and access issues and pupils attending reflect the diversity of the school population in terms of race, gender, disability and socio-economic status;
- Staff, pupils, parents and carers will continue to be involved in the future development of the Single Equality Plan through input and feedback from surveys, staff meetings, school council meetings, parents evenings etc.

##### **The school will provide:**

- Extra and additional support for pupils who are under-achieving, in order to make progress in their learning and their personal well being, e.g. ensuring that children with visual impairment have accessible texts; that children with hearing impairment have an enhanced acoustic classroom environment;
- Additional support for parents of under-achieving children (e.g. reporting progress; discussing needs);
- Additional support for disabled parents/carers and staff to help them to play a full part in the life of the school (e.g. providing a sign interpreter for a deaf parent; ensuring that meetings are held in the most accessible parts of the school to support wheelchair users).

#### **PROMOTING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND MEETING NEEDS**

##### **The school will:**

- Promote positive images which reflect the diversity of the school and community in terms of race, gender and disability, for example in assemblies, books, publications and learning materials and in classroom/corridor display.
- Actively seek to recruit disabled people to the school and support them in their work and career development, and try to reflect the diversity of the school community in its workforce;

- Actively seek to recruit disabled people to the governing body and make reasonable adjustments to ensure that they can fully participate and contribute;
- Provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relationships, including links with different schools and communities;
- Provide extended services, with opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups;
- Supporting disabled pupils in the period of transition between primary and secondary school to ease the stress of moving and increase familiarity with new surroundings;
- Helping children and young people to understand others and value diversity;
- Promoting shared values, awareness of human rights and how to apply and defend them;
- Developing skills of participation and responsible action – for example through the new ‘Identity and Diversity: living together in the UK’ strand of citizenship education.

## **ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

### **The school will:**

- Develop and adapt its procedures on anti-bullying to include equality perspectives;
- Support staff to challenge and address any bullying and harassment that is based on a person’s race, gender or ethnicity;
- Keep a record and report how these incidents are dealt with to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis;
- Review its approach to race, gender and disability bullying and harassment whenever it reviews its associated policies.

## **MONITORING IMPACT**

- The school will collect and analyse evidence and data on children’s achievement, attendance and participation by race, gender and disability, and use this to inform strategies to raise achievement;
- The governing body will ensure that parents are kept up to date with the effectiveness and success of its Single Equality Plan through documentation on the school website.