

Equality Policy

'Working together to achieve success'

This Equality policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of Mossgate Primary 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 Mossgate Primary 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 Mossgate Parliament say, "Equality is where everyone is as good as each other and when everyone is treated the same".

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan and Equality Statement.

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it having due regard for advancing equality involves:
 - Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.



Our mission:

'Working together to achieve success'

- As active and healthy **individuals** who are inquisitive, have the belief to try new things and manage risks safely.
- As resilient, confident and independent **learners** who strive to achieve their best.
- As **honest, courteous** and **kind friends** who **respect** and value difference and have the **courage** to challenge discrimination.
- As active and **responsible** and **respectful citizens** who have a positive impact within their school, community and wider world.

Our Mission Statement

Mossgate seeks to provide a happy and secure learning environment where a child's natural curiosity is provided with challenges, experiences and opportunities that will enable them to grow into caring, confident and informed citizens of the future. We pride ourselves on our inclusive ethos and community involvement. We engage in many activities at local, national and international levels to raise pupil's awareness of a diverse and ever-changing world.

The School in Context

The school is slightly smaller than the average primary school in England and is set in a large social housing estate. There are 210 children on roll from Reception to Year 6.

Key features of the school:

- the school has 7 classes with an intake of 30 single age pupils per cohort.
- numbers on roll have remained stable over the last 5 years with numbers of boys and girls broadly equal although these can vary between year groups e.g. High % of boys in Y1: 18, Y2: 17 and Y5:19.
- the school is situated in Heysham, a deprived area.
- in 2023/24, the percentage of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding is currently 35 %. This is higher than National Data (25.9%).
- the percentage of pupils on the SEN register is currently 24% with 2.4% EHCPs which is higher than national percentages (13.7%).
- there are three looked after children (LAC / PLAC) on roll.
- the vast majority of pupils on roll are white British with the proportion of pupils from a minority ethnic background at 4%.
- the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is well below the national average at 4%. Home languages spoken include Polish, Lithuanian, Chinese.
- a very small number of pupils on roll have a known disability – 0.5 %.
- the school is physically accessible in all areas, including disabled toilets, shower room.

Ethos and Atmosphere

- At Mossgate 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 our school community will challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour, eg through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions.
- All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to our 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.
- Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities.

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: the pupils (Mossgate Parliament), parents/carers, staff and governors.

Legislation and Guidance

This document refers to the following legislation:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination

- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives
- Other supporting documents are Department for Education (DfE) guidance: The Equality Act 2010 and schools:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf
- and the Equality and Human Rights Commission: Technical Guidance for Schools:
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/technical-guidance-schoolsengland>

Monitoring and Review

Mossgate 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 their potential.

We collect and analyse a range of equality information for our pupils which includes attainment/attendance data, exclusions, involvement of extended learning opportunities, complaints of bullying, harassment or racist incidents. These are analysed by ethnicity, disability, gender and free school meals.

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 compared to National data and Local Authority data, to ensure that pupils are making appropriate progress when compared to all schools, and to schools in similar circumstances.

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

- Attendance
- Exclusions and truancy
- Racism, disability, sexism, homophobia, gender orientation 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.

Mossgate 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 equality information in line with LCC guidelines for employment, training and promotion. (Please refer to our Confidentiality Policy.) No issues have arisen from data analysis in regard to this matter.

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 at Moss gate school is the Headteacher and Helen Taylor Deputy Headteacher.

Their 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

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, 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 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 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.

- Teacher enthusiasm 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 places a very high priority on the provision for special educational needs and disability. We aim to meet all pupils' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered programmes of work.
- The school provides 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 pupil.
- Consideration will be given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage.

Curriculum

At Moss gate 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.
- 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.
- All pupils have access to our tracking system which recognise attainment and achievement and promote progression.

Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within Moss gate School is a high priority. 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 school community.

When ordering new resources and materials we will consider how they show equality as part of the criteria for assessment.

Language

We recognise that it is important at Moss gate 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.

Extended Learning Opportunities

It is the policy of our 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 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 Moss gate school to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bilingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups include:

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

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 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 pupils/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 pupils 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

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

- This must include pupils' 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 through supervision, appraisal and professional development.
- 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.

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, particular 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 qualification 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 pupils 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.
- Exploring the possibility of the school having a role to play in supporting new and settled communities.

Roles and Responsibilities

We believe that promoting Equality is the responsibility of our whole school community.

Role	Responsibilities
Governors	To ensure that the school complies with legislation, agreed policy and procedures. Ensure arrangements are in place to deal with any concerns that arise. Reviews and approve the School Equality policy and work with school leaders to agree a set of equality objectives to support further development. Monitor and evaluate the school's work to address Equality Objectives.
Headteacher	Involve and engage the whole school community in identifying and understanding equality barriers and set objectives to address these alongside the Governing Body. Promote key messages to staff, parents 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. Ensure that staff have appropriate skills to deliver equality, including pupil awareness. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.
Senior Leaders	To support the Head Teacher as above. Ensure fair treatment and access to services and opportunities. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.
Teachers	Help in delivering the right outcomes for pupils. Uphold the commitment made to pupils and parents/carers on how they can be expected to be treated. Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum. Record and report prejudice related incidents.
Support Staff	Support the school and the governing body in delivering a fair and equitable service to all stakeholders. Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher on how pupils and parents/carers can be expected to be treated. Support colleagues within the school community. Record and report prejudice related incidents.
Parents	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 in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.
Our Pupils	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.
Community	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 made to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.

Eliminating Discrimination

At Moss gate, we recognise that all members of the school and our wider community are of equal value. The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting, it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring equality issues, aided by our equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

Advancing Equality of Opportunity

Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying).

Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times).

Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school societies.)

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing.
- Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information.
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying).
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils.

Fostering Good Relations

As a school we believe that should treat each other with care, respect and kindness, and that strong positive relationships make a great school. We aim to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, citizenship and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies, and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

Outcomes

This policy will play an important part in the educational development of individual pupils.

It will ensure that all pupils are treated as favourably as others. The school will make all reasonable adjustments to promote equal opportunity for all members of the school community.

We are committed to meeting the individual needs of each child and will take full account of their age, disability, gender, gender-identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation in accordance with the requirements of The Single Equality Act 2010

Considering Equality in Decision Making

Our school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made. We consider equality implications before and at the time that we develop policy and make decisions and continue to review these on a continuing basis.

We keep a written record to show we have considered equality issues and asked relevant questions about the impact of our decisions on different groups in the school community.

Commissioning and Procurement

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

Publicising the Policy and Plan

This policy will be on the school website and the school server within school. Parents are informed of this via a newsletter and copies are kept in school.

Equality Objectives

The equality objectives for the school are found on a separate document. Please see the Equality Statement and Objectives. These are set every four years and are reviewed annually by Governors and staff.

Monitoring Arrangements

We will review and update the equality information we publish at least each year to demonstrate how we are meeting the aims of the general public sector equality duty and to evidence progress made towards our equality objectives.

Our objectives will be drawn up and published by the Governing Board at least every 4 years.

Reviewed by the Subject Leader:	Approved by Governors:	Next review date:
Autumn 2023	Autumn 2023	Autumn 2024