



Single Equality Scheme

This policy was adopted/updated:	December 2020
This policy will be reviewed:	December 2021
Lead Governor	Jo Monk (STL)
Governor Committee Responsibility:	FGB
Statutory policy:	Yes

MAPLE INFANTS' SCHOOL SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

~ TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW ~

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

EQUALITY POLICY

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1. Introduction

Maple Infants' is a community infants' school, which also has a nursery. It provides for children between the ages of 3 and 7 years and is able to cater for 322 children in total. It is situated in the heart of Surbiton, in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and serves the vibrant community of Surbiton. It is a highly regarded school and is well-established in the locality.

School numbers on roll remained relatively static since the school permanently expanded to 3 forms of entry in 2016. Those identified eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant have continued to fluctuate slightly each year, however, the figure continues to remain well below national averages (Dec 2020: 9% Maple, National 23%).

Approximately two thirds of the school community identify as being from a minority ethnic group (not white British).

There are currently 38 different languages spoken across the school and 44% of children speak another language other than English as their first language (Dec 2020).

Numbers of pupils identified as having special educational needs or a disability (SEND) continue to be lower than the national average (Dec 2020: 5% SEN register, 9% emerging needs at Maple, 12.6% SEN support, 1.6% EHCP National).

Maple Infants' is an inclusive school where we focus on the well-being and progress of every child and where all members of the community are of equal worth.

We believe that the Equality Act provides a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. It also ensures that we continue to tackle issues of disadvantage and underachievement of different groups.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children.

Our approach to equality is based on the following 7 key principles:

- **All children are of equal value**, whether or not they are disabled, whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status, whatever their gender and gender identity, whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background and whatever their sexual orientation.
- **We recognise, respect and value differences and recognise diversity as a strength.** We take account of differences and strive to remove barriers and disadvantages which people may face. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.
- **We foster positive attitudes and relationships.** We actively promote positive attitudes and mutual respect between groups and communities different from each other.
- **We foster a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.** We want all members of our school community to feel a sense of belonging within the school and wider community and to feel they are respected and able to participate fully in school life.
- **We have the highest expectations of all our children.** We expect that all children can make good progress and achieve to their highest potential.
- **We work to raise standards for all our pupils, but especially for the most vulnerable.** We believe that improving the quality of education for the most vulnerable groups of pupils raises standards across the whole school.
- **We observe good equalities practice for our staff.** We ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in all aspects of their work, including recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development.

2. Purpose of the policy

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics).

The following characteristics are protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

This means that schools cannot discriminate against pupils or treat them less favourably because of their sex/gender, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Age and marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity are also “protected characteristics” but are not part of the school provisions related to pupils.

The Act requires all public organisations, including schools to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and two specific duties:

- The **Public Sector Equality Duty** or “general duty”. This requires all public organisations, including schools to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between different groups.
 - Foster good relations between different groups
- Two “specific duties”. This requires all public organisations, including schools to:
 - Publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty.
 - Publish Equality objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable.

This policy describes how the school is meeting these statutory duties and is in line with national guidance. It includes information about how the school is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and also provides guidance to staff and outside visitors about our approach to promoting equality.

Appendix 1 is a checklist of key equality considerations for school staff and governors

Appendix 2 shows our latest available equality performance statistics

Appendix 3 shows the school's Equality Objectives for 2020-2024.

3. Development of the policy

This policy was developed by Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Governor with specific responsibility for the Single Equality Scheme. Our equality objective setting process has involved gathering evidence through a variety of ways, including performance data, data on ethnicity, religion or belief, socio-economic background, gender and gender identity, disability, sexual orientation and age, and seeking the views of stakeholders.

4. Links to other policies and documentation

Although this is the key document for information about our approach to equalities in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act is also included in our school development plan, self-evaluation review and school website.

There are also references to equality issues in other plans and policies e.g. the Accessibility Plan, Disabilities Policy, Positive Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy as well as in minutes of meetings involving governors, whole staff, senior leadership team and School Parliament.

The Equality Act also applies to schools in their role as employers, and the way we comply with this is found in our recruitment policy.

5. How we promote equality and value diversity

What we are doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- All staff and governors are provided with information and training (equality matters and safeguarding).
- We challenge all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying
- We keep a record of prejudice-based incidents and report to governors termly on any such incidents and how they were dealt with. This record is regularly reviewed by the Headteacher and governors, to check whether any action is needed.
- We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.
- We are aware of the Reasonable Adjustment duty for disabled pupils and strive to ensure children with a disability are not placed at a disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.
- Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent.
- The School Policy on Behaviour – Rewards Sanctions and Exclusions – takes full account of our duties under the Equality Act.
- We consider equality implications whenever we develop, adapt and review any policy or procedure and whenever we make significant decisions about the day-to-day life of the school.
- The Headteacher ensures that all decisions about appointments, promotion or training opportunities are made in accordance with the Equality Act.

What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- We know the needs of our pupils very well. We collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and identify targets to achieve improvements
- We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils (e.g. ethnicity, gender, PPG, SEN, EAL), and we take action to close any gaps, e.g. for those making slow progress in acquiring age-appropriate literacy and number skills.
- We also collect, analyse and use data about attendance to support equality of opportunity.
- We use a range of teaching strategies to ensure we meet the needs of all pupils.
- We provide targeted support for pupils with particular needs, and for those at risk of underachieving.

What we are doing to foster good relations between different groups

- We promote a whole school ethos that promotes positive self-esteem and respect for others.
- We provide opportunities for pupils to listen to a range of opinions and empathise with different experiences.
- We use materials and resources that reflect and celebrate diversity.
- We provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.
- We promote positive messages about equality and diversity through displays, assemblies, visitors and other enrichment activities, and whole school events.

Other ways we address equality issues

- We keep records of all training relating to the Equalities Act.
- We keep minutes of meetings where equality issues are discussed.
- We review relevant feedback e.g. from parents' and pupils' surveys, the School Parliament.

6. Disseminating the policy and publishing Equality Objectives (see our Equality Action Plan at Appendix 3)

This **Equality Policy** along with the Equality Objectives and data is available:

- on the school website
- as part of induction for new staff

We publish on the school's website copies of relevant policies, including those on behaviour, anti-bullying and disabilities.

The **Equality Objectives** we identify represent our school's priorities and are based on an analysis of data and other evidence. We evaluate our success in meeting the Public Service Equality Duties by the extent to which we **achieve improved outcomes** for the different groups. We produce an analysis of Equality data which informs our discussions about Equality Objectives.

Our Equality Objectives for 2020-2024 are:

- to monitor and improve the attendance and punctuality of pupils within identified groups to meet the school target of 97% for all pupils
- to narrow the gap between the achievement of vulnerable* children and their peers
- to ensure that the school website is accessible to all and promotes equality to all stakeholders
- To increase staff and governor understanding of unconscious bias in order to consider actions that promote equality for all.

*At Maple Infants' School the term *vulnerable* is used to refer to all children who are at risk of under-achieving, including those who may be affected by discrimination and unequal opportunity, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and who therefore have one or more of the protected characteristics listed in the Act, in addition to those who are supported within and beyond the school context by relevant multi services.

These equality objectives are considered alongside our school development plan.

7. Monitoring and reviewing the policy and equality objectives

We review the information about equalities in the policy annually and make adjustments as appropriate

We review and update our equality objectives at least every four years and report annually to the governing body on progress towards achieving them. We involve and consult staff, pupils, governors and parents.

8. Roles and responsibilities

We expect all members of the school community and visitors to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

Governing body

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. A member of the governing body has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.

Every governing body committee keeps aspects of the school's commitment to the Equality Duty under review, for example, in terms of standards, curriculum, admissions, exclusions, personnel issues and the school environment. Governors annually review the Equality Policy and evaluate the success of the school's Equalities work taking account of quantitative evidence (eg, data) and qualitative evidence (eg, surveys)

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

In addition, the Headteacher has day-to-day responsibility for coordinating implementation of the policy and for monitoring outcomes. S/he will have expert and informed knowledge of the Equality Act.

Teaching and support staff

All teaching and support staff will:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- challenge prejudice and discrimination
- deal fairly and professionally with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect the school's principles, for example, in providing materials that give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability
- maintain the highest expectations of success for all pupils
- support different groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially those who may (sometimes temporarily) find aspects of academic learning difficult
- keep up to date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

Visitors

All visitors to the school, including parents and carers are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy. We will provide guidance and information in school newsletters to enable them to do this.

9. Key Contacts

- **Staff responsible for equalities:** Claire Barwell, Headteacher
- **Lead governor for equalities:** Jo Monk (Associate Member)

Appendix 1 - Checklist of key equality considerations for staff and governors

- The school collects information on race, disability and gender with regards to both pupils and staff, eg, pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions and staff training
- This information is used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities the school provides
- The Equality Policy and Plan and Objectives have been shaped by the views, input and involvement of staff, parents, governors, pupils and other stakeholders
- The school publishes information to demonstrate purposeful action on the general duties
- The school analyses pupil achievement in terms of progress and standards for different groups and takes action when these trends or patterns indicate a need
- The school sets Equality Objectives to improve outcomes for vulnerable pupils and monitors progress on reaching these objectives
- A senior member of staff has responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the policy and monitoring outcomes
- The school ensures that all staff understand and implement the key requirements of the Equality Policy
- The school ensures that visitors to the school understand and follow the key requirements of the Equality Policy
- The curriculum includes opportunities for all pupils to understand and celebrate diversity and difference
- All groups of pupils are encouraged to participate in school life and make a positive contribution, eg, through class assemblies and the School Parliament
- The school monitors bullying and harassment of pupils in terms of difference and diversity (ie, different groups) and takes action if there is a cause for concern
- Visual displays and multi-media resources reflect the diversity of the school community
- Minority ethnic, disabled and both male and female role models and those of vulnerable groups are promoted positively in lessons, displays, discussions and class assemblies
- The school takes part in annual events to raise awareness of issues around race, disability and gender
- The school environment is increasingly accessible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school – including the acoustic environment
- Open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend are held in an accessible part of the school and issues such as language barriers are considered
- The accessibility needs of parents, pupils and staff are considered in the publishing and sending out of information
- The Governing Body is increasingly representative of the community it serves
- Procedures for the election of parent governors are open to candidates and voters who are disabled

Appendix 2 – Latest available equality performance statistics for Maple Infants' - 2019

Information is from the *SP[ARK] 2017-19 Outcome Report for Governors – Maple Infants' School*. The numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) were too low for comment in the SP[ARK] report.

Outcome Data for EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) 2019:

- In 2019, 80% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). This stands above the national average which is 72%.
- There were five disadvantaged pupils in Reception in 2019. Of these 20% achieved a GLD which compares to an average of 74% for non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.
- Boys, girls and pupils who speak EAL (English as an Additional Language) had a broadly similar or greater proportion of pupils achieving a GLD, when compared with the respective national averages.

Year 1 Phonics 2019:

- In 2019, 84% of pupils achieved the expected standard in Year 1. This is in line with the national average of 82%.
- There were 14 disadvantaged pupils in Year 1 in 2019. Of these 9 (64%) achieved the expected standard. This compares to the national average of 85% for non-disadvantaged pupils.
- Boys, girls and pupils who speak EAL had a broadly similar or greater proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard, when compared with the respective national averages.

End of Key Stage 1 (KS1) 2019:

- In 2019, 75% of pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics. This is above the national average of 65%. The proportion of pupils reaching the high standard in all three subjects was above the national average of 11%.
- There were nine disadvantaged pupils in Year 2 in 2019. Of these, six (67%) achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics, which compares to the national average of 69% for non-disadvantaged pupils.
- Boys, girls and pupils who speak EAL had a similar or greater proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard or above in the combined measure when compared with the respective national averages.

Appendix 3 – Equality Objectives for Maple Infants' School 2020-2024

Objective 1: To monitor and improve the attendance and punctuality of pupils within identified groups to meet the school target of 97% for all pupils

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

- Undertake an analysis of attendance and punctuality data and trends (via SIMS) with regard to ethnicity, gender, PPG status and disability on a termly basis
- Report to the Children, Families and Community Committee of the governing board in order to identify actions for improvement
- Communicate with parents where attendance is a concern
- Increase staff awareness
- Review attendance with staff during pupil progress review meetings
- Seek support, where necessary, from Education Welfare Team.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- First review due: Autumn term 2021

Objective 2: To narrow the gap between the achievement of vulnerable* children and their peers

**At Maple Infants' School the term vulnerable is used to refer to all children who are at risk of under-achieving, including those who may be affected by discrimination and unequal opportunity, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and who therefore have one or more of the protected characteristics listed in the Act, in addition to those who are supported within and beyond the school context by relevant multi services.*

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

- *Ensure that progress data is accurate for all groups and therefore can be analysed to establish clear progress measures*
- *Ensure that all staff recognise the profile of the class they teach*
- *Senior Leaders to identify vulnerable pupils*
- *Aspirational targets to be set for ALL pupils*
- *'Good' progress measures set for all*
- *Ensure that additional support is deployed well*
- *Monitor Quality First Teaching to ensure all pupils have consistent high quality learning experiences*

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- First review due: Autumn term 2021

Objective 3: To ensure that the school website is accessible to all and promotes equality to all stakeholders

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

- Regularly review content to ensure that it is relevant and clear
- Explore ways to promote equality through our website
- Explore translation tools which will enhance our website accessibility for those where English is not their first language

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- First review due: Autumn term 2021

Objective 4: To increase staff and governor understanding of unconscious bias in order to consider actions that promote equality for all

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

- Ensure that all staff understand what unconscious bias is, how it develops and impacts cognitive ability
- Recognise how to identify unconscious bias in oneself and develop counter strategies
- Make sure that diversity is threaded through the curriculum to include diverse role models in all subjects
- Stories and resources reflect and celebrate diversity
- Build resilience to unconscious bias to help ensure equality, fairness and improved pupil outcomes
- Identify appropriate professional development for stakeholders

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- First review due: Autumn term 2021