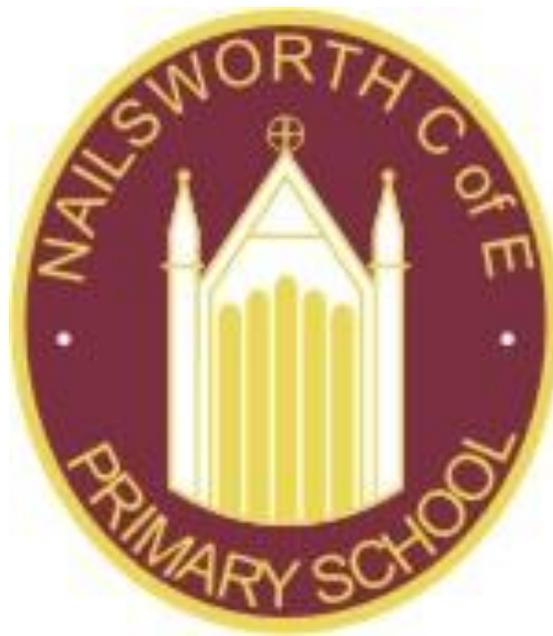


## Policy Statement for

# Equal Opportunities



<b>Change History</b>	<b>Summary of Key Changes</b>
Dec 2014	Updated to new format
Jan 2016	Updated by Gill Saville/Vince Southcott
<b>Jul 2017</b>	Updated with new link for Racial incidents VJS

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Ethos and Atmosphere .....	4
Learning Environment.....	4
The taught curriculum.....	4
Resources and Materials.....	5
Language .....	5
Organisation of Learning.....	5
Extra-curricular provision.....	5
Provision for Bilingual pupils.....	6
Staffing and Staff Development.....	6
Harassment and Bullying .....	6
Parents and the Wider Community .....	6
Monitoring and Review.....	7

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	Date Ratified by governors		April 2016
Version`	1.0	Next Review	Jan 2019
Review Author	Gill Saville/Vince Southcott	Published on Website	Yes

## Introduction

This policy statement outlines the commitment of the staff and Governors of Nailsworth CE Primary School to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. These include:

- Pupils
- Teaching staff
- Support staff
- Parents
- Governors
- Visitors to the school
- Students on placement.

Equal opportunities should permeate all aspects of school life, and is the responsibility of every member of the school community.

This policy is in accordance with the **Equality Act 2010**, which replaced all previous legislation in relation to equal opportunities. In line with that legislation, it seeks to ensure that this school provides equal opportunity for all children and adults, giving due regard to groups with “protected characteristics” in terms of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/beliefs, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, and marriage/civil partnership, in accordance with the Act.

The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all individuals within the school community. The responsibility for keeping the issue of equal opportunity at a high level of priority at all times and in all areas, is that of the head teacher.

In the context of the school we feel the most appropriate definition is that:

Equal opportunity is the right of everyone to equal chances, and each individual is respected for who they are.

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## Ethos and Atmosphere

- At Nailsworth CE Primary School we are aware that those involved in the leadership of the school community are instrumental in demonstrating mutual respect between all members of the school community.
- There should be an 'openness' of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the school.
- The children are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect.
- The displays around the school are of high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity.
- Although access to the school playground is currently difficult for disabled pupils or visitors this is currently under review and will be upgraded ,as and when, building work is undertaken.

Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning of both assemblies and classroom activities.

## Learning Environment

- There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or social background. 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.
- The adults in the school try to 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 (see SEND policy and Disability Equality Scheme).
- The school provide an environment in which all pupils have equal access to all facilities and resources.
- All pupils are actively involved in their own learning.
- A range of teaching methods is used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils.

## The taught curriculum

- At Nailsworth C.E Primary School we aim to ensure that our planning reflects our specific commitment to equality of opportunity in all subject areas and cross curricular themes in line with the National Curriculum 2014.
- Our planning takes account of the differing needs of pupils and their progression.

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## Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within our 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 including people with disabilities
- reflect non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context
- include materials to raise awareness of equal opportunity issues
- be equally accessible to all members of school community consistent with health and safety
- not include explicitly and implicitly racist, sexist, homophobic or ageist materials. Our materials seek to promote all areas of equality.

## Language

We recognise that it is important that all members of our 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 correct terminology in referring to particular groups or individuals eg Inuit rather than Eskimo, Native Americans rather than Red Indians.

## Organisation of Learning

When organising groups for various activities, consideration is always given to the composition of the group, to provide a balance appropriate to the activity.

At Nailsworth CE Primary School our environment is not culturally diverse, and we are very conscious of the need to provide first hand experiences for the pupils to encounter people from other cultures. We do this by:

## Extra-curricular provision

It is the policy of this school to provide equal access to all activities from an early age e.g. girls playing football, boys playing netball and mixed teams wherever possible.

We undertake responsibility for making contributors to extra-curricular activities aware of the school’s commitment to equality of opportunity (eg sports helpers)

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We try to ensure that all such non staff members who have contact with children adhere to these guidelines.

### **Provision for Bilingual pupils**

We undertake at Nailsworth CE Primary School to make appropriate provision for all bilingual groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups may include:

- Traveller children
- those from refugee families
- pupils whose home language is not a standard form of English
- pupils for whom English is an additional language.

While there is a need for pupils to learn to communicate in standard English we believe that their home language should be celebrated and respected.

### **Staffing and Staff Development**

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

We undertake to encourage the career development and aspirations of all individuals.

It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of pupils in the various dimensions of equality of opportunity.

### **Harassment and Bullying**

It is the duty of this school to challenge all types of discriminatory behaviour e.g.

- unwanted attentions (verbal or physical)
- unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions about another person's appearance, character, race, ability or disability, sexuality, gender (or transgender)

The school has a clear, agreed procedure for dealing with incidents such as these (see Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying policy and also GSCB Procedures manual located at [http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/gloucestershire/p\\_racism.html](http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/gloucestershire/p_racism.html))

### **Parents and the Wider Community**

We aim to work in partnership with parents to help all pupils to achieve their potential

We wish to affirm our continuing commitment to reach out to other diverse groups within our immediate community and beyond.

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## Monitoring and Review

Equality of opportunity is identified as an area requiring careful and ongoing monitoring in the School Development Plan.

The person on the staff responsible for co-ordinating the monitoring and evaluation of the policy is the head teacher. They will be responsible for:

- Leading discussions in designated staff meetings which will include support staff, to discuss issues of equal opportunities within the school community.
- Report to governors annually on the effectiveness of this policy;
- Monitoring the following will enable the school to see where equality of opportunity needs to be more intensely focused:
  - Assessment results including SATS
  - participation in extra-curricular activities
  - exclusions and truancy
  - continuous assessment of children's learning
  - racist and sexist incidents
  - results from screening for specific learning needs
  - attendance

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