

Croscombe Church of England VA Primary School Racial Equality Policy

(see also Anti-Bullying; Equal Opportunities; Inclusion; SEN)

We are a Church of England School and this policy is written with reference to our Christian foundation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Our school values the individuality of all our children. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. Within this ethos of achievement, we do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity.

1.2 This policy reflects the school's general and specific duties as detailed in:

- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000);
- *Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality* (2001), issued by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE);
- *Preparing a Race Equality Policy for Schools* CRE (2002).

The following publications were helpful:

- CRE's handbook *Learning for All: Standards for Racial Equality in Schools* (2000);
- *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain: The Parekh Report* (2000) The Runnymede Trust;
- *The Macpherson Report* (1999) on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

2 Aims

2.1 In our school we will:

- strive to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination;
- promote equality of opportunity;
- promote good relations between people of different racial and ethnic groups.

2.2 We are required to:

- prepare a written policy on racial equality;
- monitor and assess the impact of all our policies, including this one, on pupils, staff and parents of different racial groups, paying particular attention to the impact of these policies on pupils' attainment levels.

3 Principles

3.1 These three principles underpin all our procedures and practice:

- Every pupil should have the opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards.
- Every pupil should develop a sense of personal and cultural identity, with a confidence and openness to change that allows them to be receptive and respectful with regard to other people's identities.
- Every pupil should develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need in order to participate not only in Britain's multi-ethnic society but also in the wider context of an interdependent world.

4 Responsibilities

4.1 In our school we all take responsibility for promoting race equality, but the following have specific responsibilities:

4.2 The governing body will seek to ensure that the school complies with race relations legislation, and that this policy and its procedures are implemented. A specific governor will be appointed to lead in this respect.

4.3 The headteacher too, along with the governing body, will see that the policy and its procedures are implemented, that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that staff receive appropriate training and support in putting the policy into practice, and that disciplinary action is taken against staff or pupils who discriminate racially.

4.4 All staff will deal with racist incidents in accordance with school procedures, and will know how to challenge racial bias and stereotyping. They will not discriminate on racial grounds.

4.5 Teaching staff will offer full curriculum access to pupils from all racial groups, and will promote diversity and racial equality.

4.6 Visitors and contractors will comply with the school's race equality policy.

5 Tackling racial harassment

5.1 The definition of institutional racism is 'the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their culture, colour or ethnic origin.' It can be seen in processes, attitudes and behaviour that amount to discrimination, through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, or thoughtless and racist stereotyping, all of which disadvantage minority groups.

- 5.2** A racist incident is 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'. Any incident of racial harassment is unacceptable in our school. Incidents could take the form of physical assault, verbal abuse, damage to personal property, or lack of cooperation in a lesson, on account of another pupil's ethnicity.
- 5.3** Minority ethnic groups include Gypsy travellers, refugees, asylum-seekers and, in certain contexts, white Europeans.
- 5.4** All racist incidents are investigated by the headteacher. Incidents of racism are recorded in the incident book, and the headteacher reports annually to the governing body and the Local Authority (LA) on the number of incidents, the prevailing trends, and how the issues have been dealt with.
- 5.5** All pupils, parents and staff are aware of our procedures for dealing with racist incidents, and all staff are trained to deal firmly, consistently and effectively with racist incidents.
- 5.6** Victims of racism and racial harassment will be supported by the school and, where appropriate, we will seek the support of external agencies.

6 Attainment, progress and assessment

- 6.1** The school has equally high expectations of all pupils, and is dedicated to helping all pupils achieve the highest possible standards of achievement. Ethnic monitoring is essential to ensure that minority ethnic groups are not being disadvantaged. Evaluation of data may result in action planning.
- 6.2** 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 monitor attainment and progress by ethnicity.
- 6.3** School performance information is evaluated in comparison with national data and LA data, to identify any patterns of underachievement. The governing body receives regular updates on information concerning pupils' performance.
- 6.4** In addition to attainment and progress we also monitor the following records, checking them for signs of discrimination: attendance, admissions, exclusions, racist incidents, the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register, and applications of the behaviour policy.

7 Teaching and learning

7.1 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:

- ensure equality of access for all pupils, and prepare them for life in a society of diverse cultures;
- use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, learning styles and linguistic needs;
- challenge racial discrimination and stereotyping, and teach pupils how to recognise bias;
- provide opportunities for pupils to maintain links with their own culture, while at the same time appreciating cultural diversity;
- employ a range of styles, including collaborative learning, so that pupils can learn to value working together;
- endeavour to provide educational visits and extra-curricular activities that reflect all groupings among our pupils;
- take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning, and setting challenging targets.

8 Behaviour

8.1 The school makes sure that procedures for disciplining pupils and for managing behaviour are fair and just to pupils from all racial groups.

8.2 All staff operate the school's behaviour policy of rewards and sanctions consistently.

8.3 Staff are aware that cultural background can affect behaviour, and take this into account when dealing with unacceptable behaviour.

8.4 Exclusions and the use of rewards and sanctions are monitored by ethnicity, to identify any patterns.

9 Partnership

9.1 All parents are encouraged to take a full part in the life of the school. The school works with parents and the community to develop positive attitudes towards diversity and to address specific incidents.

9.2 We consult with staff, parents and pupils about their opinions on the impact of our policies. Parents receive an annual questionnaire about the school, and this now includes some questions about the success of our policies in promoting their involvement in their children's learning.

10 Staff recruitment and professional development

