

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY (Pupils)

Aims

1. We aim to develop a community where diversity is truly accepted and valued and to prepare our pupils to be tolerant, humane and just members of a complex and diverse society.
2. To create an ethos of shared values which support the principle of achievement for all.
3. To help all members of the school community to be able to identify and challenge discrimination.
4. To enhance pupils' self-esteem.
5. To ensure that each child's learning needs are met
6. All school policies, practice and organisation have been based on the following principles :-
 - That every pupil, parent and member of staff has a right to feel safe and valued.
 - That we will all strive to be non judgemental and mutually supportive
 - That each pupil can take the lead and make decisions

Principles to support Equality of Opportunity

- treat pupils as individuals with their own abilities, difficulties, attitudes, backgrounds and experiences
- challenge those belief systems based on myth, stereotype and misconception
- ensure that equal access to the curriculum means real opportunity for every child
- extend pupils' awareness, knowledge and understanding of different cultures, languages and faiths
- demonstrate that cultural diversity is valued by drawing on pupils own backgrounds and experiences
- offer positive images and role models from all cultures.

Guidelines

1. THE CURRICULUM

The statutory framework of the National Curriculum requires all schools and staff to tackle issues of equal opportunities under cross-curricular dimensions. Medina House also delivers learning through the Equals and Developmental Curricula. These curricula, in their totality, promote the principles of the school and it is, therefore, important to openly examine the values which are portrayed and equality of access to learning it offers each child.

2. SOCIAL PROCESSES

Attention must be given to ensure that pupils are organised and given opportunity to interact together and have access to all facilities as equals.

3. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Making this policy work will require the abilities and skills of all staff, the need to liaise, further professional development and draw upon existing skills and local expertise.

Reviewed April 2008

