

BURLAIS PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Burlais Primary School aims to provide all pupils with equal opportunities. They should have equal access and opportunities within our Curriculum, both formal and informal, so that when leaving our school they have the widest possible options available to them, educationally, socially and vocationally.

Burlais Primary School supports equal opportunities by countering stereotypes and prejudice, reducing the effects of sexual, racial and social discrimination, while at the same time acknowledging the diverse cultural and educational needs of our pupils. We consider equality as meaning everyone having the same chances to do what they can. Some people may need extra help to get the same chances.

Equality of opportunity for all children is essential, whatever their age, ability, gender, race or background. We recognise that a child's self-perception can be influenced by his or her environment. We want all our pupils to achieve their full potential during their time with us. We work to ensure that our expectations, attitudes, and practices – in particular those relating to gender – do not prevent any child from fulfilling his or her potential.

We understand that, as children mature and their relationships with peers of both sexes develop, their perception of gender roles alters. We also accept that such perceptions are influenced by other factors, including home, peer group and the media.

As a school, we incorporate Swansea Local Authority guidelines for Equal Opportunity into our primary practice. Certain strategies are employed to ensure that the cross-curricular dimension of equal opportunity permeates the life and work of the school.

Children of both genders have equal opportunity within, and equal access to, all areas of our Curriculum. This includes the New Curriculum for Wales Areas of Learning, other subject areas currently outside the New Curriculum for Wales and extra-curricular activities. Boys and girls are encouraged to participate equally in the full range of activities both inside and outside the classroom.

- ◆ Efforts are made to recognise, and be aware of, the possibility of gender bias in our teaching and learning materials and in our teaching styles.
- ◆ Materials are selected carefully for all areas of our Curriculum to avoid sexual stereotypes and gender bias.
- ◆ Impartiality is demonstrated by teacher time, attention and resources being given equally to boys and girls, who are encouraged to work and play freely together.
- ◆ Opportunities are given for children to work with male and female teaching and non-teaching staff.

Teaching and other groupings, such as dinner queues, assembly seating, any lines for dismissal, classroom seating and playground areas, are organised by criteria other than gender or race, for example, age, class (year group), friendship.

Equality is demonstrated when giving/delegating responsibility and noting the achievements of children.

- ◆ Discipline – notably rewards and sanctions – are the same for all children.
- ◆ Our school uniform policy embodies the same standards for all children.
- ◆ Separate toilets and separate changing facilities for swimming are provided.
- ◆ Children and staff are encouraged to respect and value each other, and build and maintain co-operative working relationships both within school and in the community.

Any discrimination that arises inside or outside the classroom is handled sensitively and discussed with the children. Equal Opportunities are included in all school policies. Burlais Primary is fully aware of the Equality Act 2010, its changes and implications for schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Burlais Primary School recognises the value of evaluating and monitoring equal opportunities; measures include:

- ◆ reviewing attendance and punctuality – analysing reasons for absence – where patterns affect particular groups of children
- ◆ reviewing the quality of relationships between different groups of children
- ◆ analysing the attainment and progress of pupils, highlighting significant variations in attainment among pupils of different gender, ability/disability, ethnicity or background.

Staffing

We provide all staff at Burlais Primary School with equal opportunities. No teaching or non-teaching post is gender-specific and, when appointing staff, recruitment procedures recommended by the Swansea Local Authority will be followed.

Tasks, duties and responsibilities are allocated without discrimination. Men and women are encouraged to teach all age groups. All staff have equal access to professional development and posts of responsibility.

All members of staff review regularly practices and approaches involving equal opportunity.

Reviewed: September 2024

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.