

CUTTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY NO.12A

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – MULTI-CULTURAL/ANTI-RACIST

Preface

Whatever the nature of the local community, pupils are growing up in a wider multi-cultural and multi-racial society where they are subject to various attitudes towards minority groups, and also certain images of these groups portrayed by the media. Racial prejudice and hostility exists across different sections of society and as a school we have a role in ensuring we tackle it in a proactive manner.

Ethos

The School stands against racism and all forms of discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, religion, gender, disability, social background or sexual orientation.

Aims

1. To promote justice, equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all and thereby allow all pupils, irrespective of their ethnic origin, to achieve the level of success and self respect which they deserve, whilst retaining their cultural identity.
2. To instil in pupils an awareness of racism and to establish an environment where school becomes effective in reducing prejudice and raising self esteem.
3. To prepare children for living in a complex multi-cultural society.
4. To promote an understanding of a variety of cultures, valuing the positive contribution these make to the community,
5. To provide a safe and welcoming place for all of its members.
6. To provide an environment where racist assumptions, attitudes and behaviour are continually challenged.
7. To provide a curriculum which emphasises the positive aspects of all cultures and to give children the confidence that racism can and must be eradicated.
8. To support the Local Authority in its multi-cultural and anti-racist policies, and to take the appropriate action to deal with any form of racism within the School.

9. To recognise that the pupils themselves are often the most important multi-cultural resource within the classroom and their experiences are valued and shared.
10. To recognise in our teaching the contributions to the development of various subject areas which have been made by different cultures.
11. To adopt the view that cultural diversity is a positive advantage. Pupils are often the most valuable multi-cultural resource in the classroom. Pupils' own experiences of festivals, food, dress, etc should be shared.
12. To actively contribute towards imparting a sense of citizenship in the pupils.
13. To promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
14. To avoid reinforcing stereotypical views of society by the teacher's careful use of language and choice of resources.
15. To use self-evaluation by whole school discussion to assess the implementation of this policy.
16. All subject leaders will continually review their curriculum mapping in light of this policy with respect to content, methodology, aims and resources.

Choice of Teaching & Learning Resources

Staff should choose and use resources:

- (a) Which portray a world view as seen from different cultural perspectives and thereby communicate how it feels to be of another ethnic or cultural group.
- (b) Which are factually accurate and use up to date text, illustrations and maps.
- (c) Which do not
 - Stereotype individuals or groups
 - Equate the white man with "civilisation".
 - Use paternalistic approaches to other peoples or cultures.
 - Reduce all non-western societies to the exotic, picturesque and primitive.
- (d) Which show the achievements and attributes of different societies, both past and present, eg, Chinese and Islamic science, African civilisations before colonisation and the benefits of the extended family system etc.
- (e) Which show children of different ethnic groups involved in the activities described, eg, physics, design, music and mathematics.
- (f) Which positively and realistically portray children from a variety of ethnic and cultural groups and class backgrounds.
- (g) In which children from ethnic minority groups can find characters which enhance their self esteem, where ethnic minority characters have important roles and adults hold positions of authority.

- (h) Which show ethnic minority characters not having to justify their ethnicity by being exceptionally virtuous or brave etc.
- (i) Which have illustrations that avoid caricature.
- (j) Which accurately reflect the population of Britain today. Are the representatives from the ethnic minorities in the text or illustrations merely token?
- (k) Which use dialect appropriately and not to ridicule.
- (l) Which use a range of folk tales from different oral or cultural traditions.
- (m) Which use stories or poems written by children from different cultures.

Curriculum Support

Those pupils whose mother tongue is not English should have experience of developing their own home language skills within the National Curriculum. The various languages spoken in the school should be given full recognition and respect by all pupils and staff. Any pupil, regardless of their ethnic origin and mother tongue, should have the opportunity to become familiar with the various community languages spoken at their school. This would not only help to promote general cultural awareness, but also improve cognitive learning. Such a school policy would also be of advantage when producing multi-lingual signs within the school, providing translations for newsletters and information booklets etc as appropriate. Pupils could help with the production of these resources, and feel they were contributing to the whole school community.

Curriculum support is essential if pupils are to develop competent skills in English language as well as having equal opportunity to improve language skills in their own mother tongue. This means that the staff are committed to providing a fully integrated language support system in the school curriculum. This system should ensure that new pupils to the school who do not speak English at home, receive immediate and full language support, and gain maximum access to the curriculum.

Some Subject Specific Considerations

Religious Education

The scheme of work is designed to reflect and co-ordinate with the various religious festivals as they occur – so as to reflect the relevance of RE to everyday life. We use opportunities such as Easter, Diwali and the Nativity play to actively involve pupils in the religions of Great Britain.

Design & Technology

In Design, especially Textiles, Ceramics and Art, we work towards instilling in the pupils an appreciation and understanding of art, craft and designs from other cultures as well as those from Western European culture.

Drama

Occasionally in drama, work is deliberately aimed at discussion and reflection on discrimination and racism. Children are encouraged to understand the feelings of minority groups. A wide range of integrated drama and music is used.

English

Wherever possible, we would endeavour to draw attention to the multi-ethnic origins of the English language. We look at how contemporary language is influenced by other cultures, eg draw comparisons between American and UK English. When teaching literature we can explore a wide range of works from Afro-Caribbean, Asian and black American authors. There are many fine examples of literature written as a result of discrimination. A wide range of stories and poems are used and their origins explored.

Music

The wealth of World Music available today as heard in recordings, live performances and from the media, gives many examples to use as a basis for Listening and Appraising, Performing and Composing. It is hoped that pupils can appreciate and recognise what has been and what can be achieved by integrating the music from different cultures as heard in the many diverse styles of music today. There are many fine examples of music composed as a result of discrimination.

Physical Education

Dance is a good vehicle by which anti-racist topics and various forms of discrimination can be explored. The children often work on themes and are free to explore and develop their own ideas. The growing number of contemporary sportsmen and women from different ethnic groups achieving success in a variety of sports helps to present a positive image of the different cultures. The camaraderie and equality of sport at all levels is also used to further enhance the sense of equality of different races, ethnic groups and cultures.

Science

Science has a variety of materials, from a variety of cultures, which can be used to demonstrate scientific theory, eg, food preservation, heat transfer and house design experiments to name but a few. We need to draw attention to ways in which scientific/economic evidence can be misused to assert a point of view, eg, the world food supply and causes of pollution.

Action to be taken when Racist Behaviour is suspected

If racism is suspected we talk to the alleged victim, the alleged perpetrator(s) of racist behaviour and any witnesses. If any degree of racism is identified, the following action will be taken:-

Help, support and counselling will be given as appropriate to both the victims and the perpetrator(s) of racist behaviour.

A record is made on a Behaviour Log if the incident is considered racist.

We support the victims in the following ways:

- By offering them an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience with their class teacher, or another teacher if they choose.
- By informing the victim's parents/carers.
- By offering continuing support when they feel they need it.
- By taking one or more of the seven disciplinary steps described below to prevent more racism.

We also discipline, yet try to help the perpetrator(s) of racist behaviour in the following ways:

- By talking about what happened, to discover why they became involved.
- By informing the parents/carers of the perpetrator(s) of racist behaviour
- By continuing to work with the perpetrator(s) of racist behaviour in order to get rid of prejudiced attitudes as far as possible.
- By taking one or more of the five disciplinary steps described below to prevent more racism.

Disciplinary Steps

1. They will be warned officially to stop offending and all incidents will be logged and stored in the school office.
2. Informing the parents/carers of the child.
3. They may be excluded from the school premises at break and/or lunchtimes.
4. If they do not stop the racist behaviour, they will face a fixed period of exclusion.
5. If they will not end such behaviour, they will be recommended for permanent exclusion.

JD/November 2021

Adopted by the Governing Body:

Minute No: 21.11.11