

## Gender Equality Policy

### Aims of the policy

Newbold Verdon Community Primary is an inclusive school and as such we want all our children to be explorers who will keep on learning all their lives.

At Newbold Verdon Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for staff, pupils and all those receiving services from the school irrespective of gender.

Under the gender equality duty all schools now need to take action to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
- Promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

Although at Newbold Verdon Primary School we take positive steps to address gender inequality, we understand that there are many barriers that prevent pupils and staff from achieving and making the most of the opportunities we make available.

To promote gender equality it is vital that the differences between boys' and girls', male and female experiences, attitudes and achievements in schools are understood so that our policies and practices can begin to break down these barriers.

However, we are aware of how factors such as ethnicity and social class also impact on the achievement of boys and girls. This scheme supports our work as set out in our, Inclusion policy, Disability Equality scheme and Race Equality scheme to tackle the many factors that affect pupil attainment.

We will promote the gender equality so that we will:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment;
- Promote equality of opportunity between men and women; and
- Result in improved outcomes for girls, boys, male and female staff and parents/carers in all aspects of school life, in the wider community and in employment.

### Key gender issues for all those working with children and young people.

**The Every Child Matters Agenda** sets out five areas of outcomes in which to improve the life chances for all children and young people. These outcomes have significantly different dimensions for girls and for boys.

- **Be Healthy**

There are particular issues for girls and boys in their attitudes to sport, exercise and sexual health.



- **Stay safe**

Differences in the ways boys and girls bully or are bullied need to be examined. The link between homophobic bullying and suicide for boys has been highlighted through national research.

- **Enjoy and achieve**

Boys are behind girls in overall levels of attainment. Girls' educational achievements, although higher than boys', are not necessarily helping them to take up non-stereotypical employment opportunities.

- **Make a positive contribution**

Sexist stereotyping, bullying and sexual forms of harassment can result in behaviours which have a negative effect on pupils' developing positive relationships and on their skills and willingness to participate in school and community life.

- **Achieve economic well being**

Stereotyping contributes to the gender pay gap.

For us at Newbold Verdon Primary School this means that we will build on our existing practice by:

- Continuing to take a key role in shaping the values and attitudes of children and young people and take a lead in challenging gender based harassment, bullying and violence and stereotyping
- Taking action to challenge gender stereotyping in subject choice and careers advice as a key part of our whole school curriculum
- Including the gender equality duty in the way we plan for school improvement
- Building on our positive work around the Healthy Schools initiative
- Investigating and addressing complaints of sexual and sexist bullying, harassment and violence from staff.

### **Our objectives**

- Continue to challenge gender issues in attainment
- Identify the key gender equality issues for our school



- Publicise actively our procedures to eliminate harassment and discrimination on the grounds of gender in education and employment.
- Ensure that incidents of sexist bullying and harassment are recorded

We will do this by:

- Using our staff and curriculum to encourage boys' reading
- Gathering relevant information and using to inform gender equality actions
- Analysing pupil achievement data by gender
- Consulting with relevant people and using that information to identify gender equality objectives/actions.
- Raising awareness of this scheme and its aims through training, parents' meetings, our newsletter, staff meetings and curriculum.
- Nominating a senior member of staff to co-ordinate the monitoring of sexist bullying
- assessing the impact of our policies and practices that have a high relevance in promoting gender equality on our pupils, staff and governors (exclusions, behaviour policy)
- Gathering and using information on how our policies and practices affect gender equality in the workforce and delivery of services
- Working with our partners and community groups to support developments in recruitment and retention of men in primary schools and early years settings.
- Consultation with all parties to inform effectiveness of the plan and any changes needed

Specific areas for improvement identified through monitoring and consultation with stakeholders.

### **Monitoring, review and evaluation**

#### **Responsibilities**

The Finance and Staffing Committee of the Governing Body is responsible for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. The Headteacher is responsible for reporting annually on progress to the Committee.

#### **Reviewing and reporting the gender equality scheme:**

Schools must review their gender equality scheme at least every three years and publish a revised scheme. The reviewing process is an opportunity to evaluate progress made towards the achievement of gender equality objectives and to decide, in consultation with stakeholders, on the priorities for the next three years.



The scheme will be reviewed and publicly commented on each year. It will be placed on the school website and brought to the attention of parents/carers through the school newsletter.

This scheme will monitor by gender in a range of areas including:

- pupil achievement
- exclusions
- recruitment, retention and career development of disabled staff
- participation

