



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

RATIONALE

At Derby Montessori School we believe in valuing and celebrating the diversity within our community. We aim to develop good practice and positive attitudes in all our children, and encourage an anti-discriminatory approach to the world in general, and other human beings in particular. We believe that all people should have equal opportunities to learn, develop and grow with dignity in a community of mutual respect.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

Robert Methuen-Jones is our named equal opportunities co-ordinator. As such it is his duty to ensure that:

- New members of staff, including students and volunteers, receive copies of the Equal Opportunities Policy or Manual, and that this is discussed with them during their induction meeting.
- The Equal Opportunities Policy is made available to all parents and carers.
- Staff, parents and children are involved in the planning and implementation of the policy.
- Where practicable, the policy is made available in formats suitable to parents with diverse needs.
- Parents who are experiencing problems with the English language, both spoken or written, are offered support.
- The help of the child's key person is offered to assist and support families.
- Where practicable suitable specialist equipment, aids or resources are obtained.
- Reasonable adjustments are made to the premises to cater for anyone with any form of disability.
- Volunteers, local speakers or personalities who reflect the diversity of the local community are invited to visit Derby Montessori School.

OUR PRACTICE

The Equal Opportunities Policy applies to every staff member, parent, carer and child. Each person is valued as an individual, with differing social, intellectual and cultural backgrounds. Different needs, likes, dislikes, similarities and differences are respected and accounted for.

- Nobody at Derby Montessori School is subjected to discrimination, racist comments or gender bias. Cultural or religious diversity is respected.
- As part of the induction process we hold a discussion with parents before their child starts Derby Montessori School. During this discussion a questionnaire is filled out

which will form the basis of the child's individual records. Parents are encouraged to share any information or concerns about their child's specific emotional, medical, cultural or religious needs. This information is relayed to other members of staff at the relevant staff meeting.

- We value parents as their children's first educators, and staff work closely with parents to share information, experiences, conversation and quality time, thus promoting positive role models for their children.
- We cater for cultural, religious and medical differences at all snack and mealtimes.
- We celebrate a variety of festivals and special events each year from cultures represented within our community and outside.
- Our curriculum plan takes into account each child's individual route to learning.
- We give the children equal opportunities and equal access to the full range of activities available, including visits and trips outside Derby Montessori School.
- We monitor activities on a regular basis to ensure that every child has freedom of choice, time for discovery, and support, when it is necessary.
- At all times we encourage the children to respect and value each other. We discourage them from making hurtful and unkind remarks. Staff ensure that children are helped towards understanding that it is wrong to judge someone because of their gender, colour, beliefs, disability or social background. We explain why, talk things through and praise positive behaviour.
- We challenge and deal with inappropriate practices and attitudes promptly.
- We record any seriously inappropriate racist or sexist comments made by children and staff, including volunteers and students.
- We have a Diversity and Equality three year plan, to support equal opportunities, equality and diversity.

STAFF TRAINING

- We take great care to apply the Equal Opportunities Policy when advertising for, interviewing and appointing staff.
- We keep staff informed and updated on new legislation, and train them accordingly.
- We give the opportunity to attend courses to staff who:
 - have identified an area in which they wish to improve their own knowledge and expertise
 - have been identified through an inspection or an in-house appraisal as having a training need
 - want to further their own personal development.
- We expect all staff to behave in a professional manner, follow the above policy and try to be consistent, sensitive and fair. We expect them to challenge others who make inadvertent racist, sexist or insensitive remarks.

EQUIPMENT

We purchase, organise and monitor equipment, toys, books and resources to reflect diversity in the immediate and wider society. We display positive images of differing races, cultures, religions, social groups, physical abilities and disabilities and gender in and around Derby Montessori School.