

CRESWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL

INCLUSION POLICY

Introduction

The mission statement of our school talks of valuing the individuality of all of our children. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. We believe that all children should be equally valued in school. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe.

Creswell Junior School is committed to inclusion. Part of the school's strategic planning for improvement is to develop cultures, policies and practices that include all learners. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties.

This does not mean that we will treat all learners in the same way, but that we will respond to learners in ways which take account of their varied life experiences and needs.

This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Aims and objectives

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school:

- girls and boys, men and women;
- minority ethnic and faith groups, Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees;
- children who need support to learn English as an additional language;
- children with special educational needs;
- children who are disabled;
- gifted and talented children;
- Those who are looked after by the local authority
- children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion;
- Others such as those who are sick; those who are young carers; those who are in families under stress.

This policy describes the way we meet the need of children who experience barriers to their learning, which may relate to sensory or physical impairment, learning difficulties or emotional or social development, or may relate to factors in their environment, including the learning environment they experience in school.

We recognise that pupils learn at different rates and that there are many factors affecting achievement, including ability, emotional state, age and maturity. We believe that many pupils, at some time in their school career, may experience difficulties which affect their learning, and we recognise that these may be long or short term.

At Creswell Junior School we aim to identify these needs as they arise and provide teaching and learning contexts which enable every child to achieve to his or her full potential.

The development and monitoring of the school's work on Inclusion will be undertaken by the SENCo and the Pastoral Group which meets once every three weeks, and includes any relevant outside agencies, such as behavior support, the local police and Education Welfare.

The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning a curriculum that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. We meet these needs through:

- setting suitable learning challenges;
- responding to children's diverse learning needs;
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils;
- Providing other curricular opportunities outside the National Curriculum to meet the needs of individuals or groups of children. (This includes speech and language therapy and mobility training.)
- Continually monitoring the progress of all pupils, to identify needs as they arise and to provide support as early as possible.

We achieve educational inclusion by continually reviewing what we do, through asking ourselves these key questions:

- do all our children achieve their best?
- are there differences in the achievement of different groups of children?
- what are we doing for those children who we know are not achieving their best?
- are our actions effective?
- are we successful in promoting racial harmony and preparing pupils to live in a diverse society?

Teaching and learning style

Using the criteria outlined in the Every Child Matters Agenda we aim to give all our children the opportunity to succeed and reach the highest level of personal achievement. We analyse the attainment of different groups of pupils to ensure that all pupils are achieving as much as they can. We also make

ongoing assessments of each child's progress. Teachers use this information when planning their lessons. It enables them to take into account the abilities of all their children. For some children, we use the programmes of study from earlier key stages. This enables some of our children to make progress in their own lessons, perhaps after significant amounts of time spent away from school.

When the attainment of a child falls significantly below the expected level, teachers enable the child to succeed by planning work that is in line with that child's individual needs. Where the attainment of a child significantly exceeds the expected level of attainment, teachers use materials from a later key stage, or extend the breadth of work within the area or areas for which the child shows particular aptitude.

Teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability.

Teachers ensure children:

- feel secure and know that their contributions are valued;
- appreciate and value the differences they see in others;
- take responsibility for their own actions;
- participate safely, in clothing that is appropriate to their religious beliefs;
- are taught in groupings that allow them all to experience success;
- use materials that reflect a range of social and cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping;
- have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different learning styles;
- have challenging targets that enable them to succeed;
- are encouraged to participate fully, regardless of disabilities or medical needs.

Children with disabilities

Some children in our school have disabilities and consequently need additional resources. The school is committed to providing an environment that allows these children full access to all areas of learning. All our classroom entrances are wide enough for wheelchair access, and the designated points of entry for our school also allow wheelchair access.

Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for these children. For example, they may give additional time to children with disabilities to complete certain activities. In their planning teachers ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum.

Teachers ensure that the work for these children:

- takes account of their pace of learning and the equipment they use;
- takes account of the effort and concentration needed in oral work, or when using, for example, vision aids;

- is adapted or offers alternative activities in those subjects where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment, or use certain types of materials;
- allows opportunities for them to take part in educational visits and other activities linked to their studies (sometimes parents/carers are invited to accompany their children on school outings to ensure their needs are met);
- includes approaches that allow hearing-impaired children to learn about sound in science and music, and visually-impaired children to learn about light in science, and to use visual resources and images both in art and design and in design and technology;
- uses assessment techniques that reflect their individual needs and abilities.

In response to the Disability Act 2001, the governing body is currently reviewing how the school can be made more accessible for disabled children as from September 2002.

Disapplication and modification

The school can, where necessary, modify or disapply the National Curriculum and its assessment arrangements. Our school policy is to do this only in exceptional circumstances. The school makes every effort to meet the learning needs of all its children, without recourse to disapplication or modification. We achieve this through greater differentiation of the child's work, or through the provision of additional learning resources. When necessary, we also support learning through appropriate external specialists. In such cases, teachers work closely with these agencies to support the child.

In exceptional circumstances we may decide that modification or disapplication is the correct procedure to follow. We would only do this after detailed consultation with parents and the Local Education Authority. The school's governor with responsibility for special educational needs would also be closely involved in this process. We would ensure that every effort had been made to provide the necessary support from within the school's resources before considering such action.

Should we go ahead with modification or disapplication, we would do so through:

- Section 364 of the Education Act 1996. This allows modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it, through a statement of special educational needs;
- Section 365 of the Education Act 1996. This allows the temporary modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it.

Racism and inclusion

The school has implemented the recommendations of The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: MacPherson Report (1999). The diversity of our society is addressed through our schemes of work, which reflect the programmes of study of the National Curriculum. Teachers are flexible in their planning and offer appropriate challenges to all pupils, regardless of ethnic or social background.

All racist incidents are now recorded and reported to the governing body by the headteacher. The school contacts parents of those pupils involved in racist incidents. Further details are to be found in the school's Racial Equality Policy.

Summary

In our school the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of **every** child are important. We follow the necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all our children into account when planning for learning.

Links to other policies:

- *SEN*
- *Medical Needs*
- *Behaviour*
- *Home school agreement*
- *Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan*

Date approved: _____

Minute number: _____

Chair of Governors signature: _____