

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School



Policy for

Equality in Forest School

*'That the man of God may be competent, equipped
for every good work.'*

Timothy 3:17

Review date September 2023

Introduction

At St. Matthew's C of E Primary School we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 as both a provider of education and as an employer.

We believe that all pupils and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstances. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our school. We recognise that equality will only be achieved by the whole school community working together – our pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers.

National and Legal Context

We recognise that we have duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the school community to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (applicable only to staff), disability, race, gender (including issues of transgender), maternity and pregnancy, religion and belief, sexual orientation and marital status (applicable only to staff).

We also recognise that we have a duty under the Education & Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion, i.e. developing good relations across different cultures and groups.

We also appreciate that these duties reflect the international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

School Context

St. Matthew's C of E Primary is situated in the village of Blackmoor. We collect equality information on an annual basis and this is in appendix 1. <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/Research/EqualityandDiversityFactsheet> has further information on the demographics of our catchment.

Forest School

Forest School is FOR ALL. The forest is an environment which we are all entitled to access and the activities that take place during Forest School sessions are always child led and planned to produce success, challenge and enjoyment. Children with medical needs or disabilities will be helped so that they can take part fully in each Forest School session. Those children with challenging behaviour will be risk assessed and may need one to one supervision, but their entitlement to participate in Forest School remains the same. If children are unable to produce appropriate clothing for Forest School, we do have some spare wet weather clothing but we encourage both parents and children to think about the usefulness of their clothing for outdoor activities in every season, and to be aware that they are likely to take home muddy and wet clothes after a Forest School session.

The school has an Equality Policy which you can find, together with the local procedures to be followed by all staff, in the Policies Document folder on the school's network.

.

