



## Equality Information 2020-21

### Introduction

The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre is committed to ensuring that everyone is treated fairly and with respect as we want our school to be a safe and inspiring learning environment for all our pupils. This school recognises that people have different needs and we understand that treating people equally does not always involve treating everyone the same. The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre creates inclusive processes and practices where the varying needs of individuals can be identified and met.

This document explains how we show our commitment to equality<sup>i</sup> for our school population and how we plan to tackle inequalities that may impact at school.

### Celebrating our Successes

Examples of how we have promoted equality in different areas of the school include:

- Closed the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged (national) progress in maths – Avenue Disadvantaged Progress = +0.38, National Non-Disadvantaged Progress = +0.37 (2019)
- Begun to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged (national) progress in Reading – Difference 2017/18 = 2.14, Difference 2018/19 = 1.73 (2019)
- Begun to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged (national) progress in Writing – Difference 2017/18 = 4.03, Difference 2018/19 = 2.93 (2019)
- Reduced Exclusions from a total of 15, involving 8 children (2018/19) to 11, involving 3 children (2019/20) through providing a greater range of SEND support.
- SEND Resource Base fully included in school life
- Increasing involvement of disadvantaged children in extra-curricular activities
- Pupils knowledge and understanding of different faiths and beliefs in Britain today developed through assembly program that covers a range of religions and festivals
- PSHE and RE lessons which allow children to discuss difference eg faith, culture, family make up

## **Priorities for the Year 2020/21**

### **Sex (Gender) – Boys and Girls**

The underachievement of boys compared with girls persists both nationally and in Wiltshire. In Wiltshire, the attainment gap is marginally under 8 percentage points, with 68% of girls achieving the expected standard in all of reading, writing and mathematics compared to 60% of boys. In Wiltshire, the sex (girls/boys) attainment gap for the broad 'major' ethnic category All Black Pupils is larger at 10 percentage points with 62.7% of girls and 52.6% of boys achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. Two thirds of the gender gap in achieving the expected standard in Reading at age eleven is attributable to the fact that boys have lower levels of language and attention at age five. This school knows that intervention targeting early language and attention have potential for improving outcomes for all children. Boys benefit from such interventions because they are more likely to have these problems to begin with. <sup>iii</sup>

### **Minority Ethnic Pupils**

Many minority ethnic groups of pupils do well but there are also groups where underachievement persists. Underachievement for the groups highlighted in this report are a national as well as a Wiltshire concern and have been an ongoing issue since ethnic monitoring was introduced.

Very small numbers of minority ethnic pupils The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre mean that individual pupil-targeted approaches must be used to identify both underachievement, and to celebrate successes. LA and national attainment data provides a valuable source of information to identify potential areas of concern.

#### **All Black Pupils Major Ethnic Monitoring Category**

LA data has highlighted concerns about the attainment of the All Black Pupils major ethnic monitoring category and for the Black Caribbean minor ethnic monitoring category. <sup>ii</sup>

Wiltshire Key Stage 2 data for 2019 shows attainment was lower for pupils in the All Black Pupil major ethnic monitoring category compared with the White British pupils minor ethnic monitoring category. Fewer boys (8 percentage points lower) in the All Black Pupil category achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared with boys in the White British ethnic category. Attainment for Black Caribbean pupils was 14 percentage points lower than the attainment of White British pupils.

A lower proportion of Wiltshire pupils in the All Black Pupil major ethnic monitoring category achieved a Higher Standard in the Reading, Writing and Maths assessments compared with White British pupils. Pupils in the All Black Pupil were 3.7 less likely to have achieved the Higher Standard compared to White British Pupils.

When and as appropriate The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre works closely with the LA to implement proven strategies to raise attainment during the primary school years.

Our curriculum, teaching, policies and practices are regularly reviewed and updated. The Black Lives Matter movement has provided a new impetus to this important work. This school is also receiving regular guidance and information from the LA as well as sharing best practice with other Wiltshire schools.

## **Equality Objective: Black Lives Matter**

This school will develop a separate action plan to tackle long standing inequalities highlighted by the recent Black Lives Matter movement.

### **Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Pupils**

Gypsy/Roma and Irish Traveller pupils are the lowest achieving ethnic groups.

In Wiltshire, just under 18% of Gypsy/Roma pupils achieved the expected standard. <sup>ii</sup> Small numbers mean the attainment of Wiltshire Traveller pupils is not being published. While the overwhelming majority of Wiltshire Gypsy/Roma/Traveller pupils choose to attend primary school until the end of Year 6, it remains a concern that a majority of Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller families choose to home educate their children during the secondary school years. <sup>ii</sup>

A House of Commons Briefing Paper (September 2017) reported that education issues for Gypsies and Travellers include prejudice, discrimination and discriminatory attitudes. The issues also include the schools' responses to discrimination, and high levels of self-exclusion from mainstream education because of discrimination. <sup>iv</sup>

National research published in 2018 suggests there has been a significant increase in the number of Gypsy/Roma and Irish Traveller children who are being cared for by local councils. The data shows an increase of 900% for the numbers of Gypsy/Roma children and 400% for Irish Traveller children since 2009. One of the reasons suggested is that Gypsy/Roma and Traveller families are less likely to be offered or to access early help and support and this is important as it is an area in which schools are able to help. <sup>v</sup>

## **English as an Additional Language**

In Wiltshire schools, the same proportion, 64%, of pupils for whom English is known to be their first language and those for whom it is an additional language achieved the expected standard. <sup>ii</sup> It should be noted that children with EAL have widely varying levels of English proficiency. Some children have no English and some are fluent multilingual English-speakers and may have lived in English-speaking countries or have been educated in English throughout their childhood.

Attainment is also affected by first language; for example, there are significant differences between Tamil and Chinese speakers, who, on average, perform better than Pashto and Turkish speakers. In addition, prior education and arrival time impacts on attainment. <sup>vi</sup> The Wiltshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service advise on best practice for individual pupils to ensure those most vulnerable to poor attainment are to fulfil their academic potential.

## **Religion and Belief**

Data is not collected for monitoring purposes on Religion and Belief, and so there is no information available to compare the attainment of pupils who have/or do not have a religion or a belief. The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre recognises how important faith and belief can be as part of a young person's developing identity, whether this relates to a specific faith or belief, or whether this relates to wider belief systems, morals and ethics.

The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre is committed to supporting all our young people as they develop a personal relationship with their own values and beliefs, and to supporting, in the context of the Human Rights agenda, the role this plays in the moral and ethical choices they make in life.

This school takes incidents of prejudice-related bullying seriously and is committed to working closely with parents/carers to create a school environment which is nurturing, friendly and supportive for all our children. Our school has established a procedure for recording all incidents of prejudice-based bullying, and this includes bullying related to religion and belief. Comments from young people about bullying include the following, “Encourage and celebrate difference – don’t single us out if we are different, have difficulties, or have different beliefs and views”, the Wiltshire Anti-Bullying Charter. <https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/core-themes/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/anti-bullying-practice/> This school is vigilant in maintaining an awareness of, and appropriate responses to, this possibility. The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre is aware that negative faith-based media attention can have an impact on all children, and recognises the importance of ensuring that pupils are provided with accurate and appropriate information. The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre ensures that all pupils gain knowledge of and respect for the different faiths in Britain as part of our role to prepare pupils for modern life in a diverse Britain. As part of a whole school activity, pupils celebrate different religious festivals and learn from religious representatives from various communities.

The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre recognises that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief is a global concern. This school is aware that Islamophobia and anti-Semitism (discrimination or prejudice against people because they are Muslim or Jewish) is increasing and that it displays many of the same traits as racism. This school will continue its work to inform and actively promote acceptance and respect. Nationally, between 2015/6 and 2016/7 there was an increase of 37 per cent in the numbers of faith or belief-based incidents reported to the Police either on school property or near to school property.<sup>vii</sup> 11% of Islamophobic incidents happen in educational institutions<sup>viii</sup>, including name-calling, jibes about so-called Islamic State, violence, and victimisation when wearing a hijab<sup>ix</sup>. Many Muslim young people say abuse is so commonplace it is normalised<sup>x</sup>. Childline has recorded a spike in race- and faith-based bullying with victims reporting that they feel isolated, withdrawn and lack self-esteem<sup>xi</sup>.

This school is benefiting an education resource designed for work with primary school children to educate them about Islamophobia. The development of this resource was funded by the Home Office<sup>xii</sup>.

### **Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation (LGBT)**

Gender Identity remains a relatively new area for schools but this Protected Characteristic identifies a small section of society as vulnerable to discrimination and inequality. Gender Identity was included in equality legislation for the first time in 2010, and many schools, parents, as well as wider society, are learning about the issues for the first time.

Schools in Wiltshire access expert advice and support from the LA, as well as exchanging best practice with other schools. The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre recognises that Gender Identity is a complex area and that children, young people and their families are navigating an equality area where best practice is not fixed, and where the central advice is to be ‘led by the child’.

This school is committed to ensuring that all our children feel safe while at school and that each child is given the chance to develop their unique identity with support from teaching and support staff, and their peers.

Pupils are taught that families come in many different forms and include single-parent; grandparent-led; same-sex parents; step-families; foster families; families who have adopted children; etc. Our pupils understand that although families can be very different, what matters is that everyone in a family loves and cares for each other.

This school recognises that negative views within wider society about LGBT+ <sup>xiv</sup> people can have a detrimental effect on pupil wellbeing. Data from Childline and anecdotal information from CAMHS (serving Wiltshire children) show that increasing numbers of children in primary schools are raising issues relating to gender identity and sexual orientation. Gender Identity and sexual orientation are not mental health concerns but many of the referrals received by CAMHS for young people with issues related to their gender identity or sexual orientation are linked to bullying, isolation and internalised negative views about LGBT+ people, that in turn impacts on their emotional and mental health. This school recognises that pupils with these issues will need support from school-based counsellors/school support groups and national websites such as Young Minds. CAMHS is encouraging of primary schools who can provide such support to their pupils, as dealing effectively with these issues at a younger age appears to reduce the more serious mental health issues presented by some LGBT+ secondary school pupils.

There are many charitable organisations providing support on gender identity to young people, their families and to their schools. There are also organisations able to provide advice and support where a pupil has a parent who is transgender. The LA has up to date information about the different organisations, the services they provide and how to contact them.

### **Disability (Special Educational Needs and Disability)**

SEN pupils are categorised as 'SEN with a statement or Education, health and care (EHC) plan' and 'SEN support'. In Wiltshire in 2019, 16% of pupils at the end of key stage 2 have a special educational need and 4% have a statement or education, health and care plan. <sup>ii</sup>

Of all reported characteristics, pupils with SEN have the largest attainment gap when compared to those without any identified SEN. <sup>ii</sup> In 2019, 25.6% of Wiltshire pupils with SEN support reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics, compared with 75% of Wiltshire pupils with no identified SEN, resulting in an attainment gap of 49 percentage points. <sup>ii</sup>

The Avenue Primary School & Children's Centre is required to publish information on the attainment of SEN pupils. The focus of this section of this Equality Information document is disability. The disability areas being highlighted in this report have been adapted to reflect our current pupil profile. *Please note that as schools must adhere to data protection protocols in order not to breach the confidentiality of individual or small groups of pupils, this may mean that our school is limited in the data it is able to publish in this section.*

## SEND Pupils and the link with Poverty

This school is aware that there is a strong link between poverty and disabilities that negatively impact on educational attainment. <sup>xvi</sup> Children from low-income families are more likely than their peers to be born with inherited special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), are more likely to develop some forms of SEND in childhood, and are less likely to move out of SEND while at school. Also, children with SEND are more likely than their peers to be born into poverty, and, in addition, more likely to experience poverty as they grow up.

The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre has made the achievement of pupils with SEND a whole school priority and is supported with expert advice from our SEND education specialists. The Avenue Primary School & Children’s Centre also knows that a strong partnership with parents/carers is important, and will continue to work collaboratively to support parents/carers as they seek to provide their children with a stimulating home-learning environment.

## Pupils with Mental Health Concerns

There is an increasing understanding of the negative impact of social, emotional, and mental health difficulties (SEMH) on the educational attainment of pupils. The incorporation of mental health into the Equality Act 2010 has helped to highlight this important issue. <sup>i</sup>

### EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Objective	Date Originally Set	Progress up to July 2020	Further Actions
To increase understanding of religious/faith diversity (including people who do not have a faith) and to develop an awareness of the history of religious intolerance in Britain and Europe, and to learn to promote tolerance and understanding.	June 2017	<p>Assembly program put in place to include main religions and their festivals</p> <p>Children belonging to the faith being celebrated given the opportunity to share their experiences with their peers</p> <p>Tolerance and understanding promoted through positive relationships in school</p> <p>RE curriculum updated to ensure coverage of a variety of religions across the school</p>	Implement ‘Discovery RE’ to consolidate work already completed in this area.
To address pupil mental health and wellbeing as part of our commitment to preventing mental health difficulties that may start in childhood but have a greater impact in adult life.	June 2017	<p>Staff aware of fact that children may be affected by mental health</p> <p>Children showing signs of deteriorating mental health or</p>	<p>Invest in mental health training for ELSAs</p> <p>Implement Coram SCARF PSHE Scheme of Work to enhance curriculum already</p>

		<p>well-being offered support through ELSA</p> <p>Referrals made to CAMHS where there is significant concern</p> <p>Pupil &amp; Parent Support Worker available to support parents who are concerned about their children</p> <p>Student Leadership Group and additional responsibilities in place for Y6 to raise self-esteem and prepare for secondary school</p>	<p>in place re mental health</p> <p>Extra support (TA time, class focus) on well-being as children return from lockdown.</p>
<p>To close the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils by the end of KS2</p>	<p>July 2018</p>	<p>Profiles set up to track progress of disadvantaged children</p> <p>Progress and attainment of disadvantaged children highlighted on planning and discussed in detail and PPM meetings</p> <p>Progress and attainment of disadvantaged children tracked termly</p> <p>Targeted intervention put in place for disadvantaged children who are not making progress</p> <p>Gap closed in maths between disadvantaged (school) and non-disadvantaged (national)</p> <p>Gap closing in reading and writing disadvantaged (school) and non-disadvantaged (national)</p>	<p>Identify gaps in learning as children return from lockdown</p> <p>Adapt curriculum to fill gaps and consider intervention for those who need it.</p>

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- <sup>i</sup> The Equality Act 2010 and Schools  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/315587/Equality\\_Act\\_Advice\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf)
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-2-and-multi-academy-trust-performance-2019-revised>
- <sup>iii</sup> Understanding the Gender Gap in Literacy and Language Development: Professor Gemma Moss and Dr Liz Washbrook, University of Bristol 2016 <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/education/documents/bristol-working-papers-in-education/Understanding%20the%20Gender%20Gap%20working%20paper.pdf>
- <sup>iv</sup> Gypsies and Travellers, House of Commons Briefing Paper Number 08083, 28 September 2017  
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8083/CBP-8083.pdf>
- <sup>v</sup> The Fragility of Professional Competence, A Preliminary Account of Child Protection Practice with Romani and Traveller Children in England, January 2018, University of Salford, Manchester  
<http://usir.salford.ac.uk/46146/1/the-fragility-of-professional-competence-january-2018.pdf>
- <sup>vi</sup> Educational Outcomes for Pupils who have English as an Additional Language: The Education Policy Institute, The Bell Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy by Jo Hutchinson, Director for Social Mobility and Vulnerable Learners (February 2018) <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/research-report/educational-outcomes-of-children-with-english-as-an-additional-language/>
- <sup>vii</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf)
- <sup>viii</sup> Tell Mama, 2017
- <sup>ix</sup> NSPCC, 2018
- <sup>x</sup> British Youth Council, 2016
- <sup>xi</sup> NSPCC, 2018
- <sup>xii</sup> <https://www.equaliteach.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FAITH-IN-US.pdf>  
Funded by the Home Office Hate Crime Communities Project Fund
- <sup>xiii</sup> LGBT History Month, <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/lgbt-history-month-education> celebrated in February each year.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Stonewall School Report, 2017, The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pupils in Britain's Schools  
<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/school-report-2017>
- <sup>xv</sup> Valuing All God's Children, 2017, [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%27s%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%27s%20Report_0.pdf)
- <sup>xvi</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Special Education Needs and their Links to Poverty, 26 February 2016  
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/special-educational-needs-and-their-links-poverty>