

Offwell C of E Primary Equality Statement

All children deserve an equal chance at a successful future, but children everywhere can be affected by unequal treatment and opportunity from the start, with long term impact on their lives and loss of their potential to society.

At Offwell, we aim to make our world better for the future, and to achieve our vision for our children to: **Be Well**, **Learn Well** and **Live Well**, through the care and education we provide.

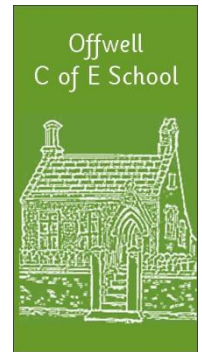
We know that our lives are enriched by the gift of diversity, therefore, we celebrate our diversity of experience and appearance and we take a strong stand against all forms of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. As a Church school we believe in a moral duty to actively become a part of the solution; to 'be the change we wish to see'.

Rationale for educating for equality

Inequalities persist, both locally and globally. In Britain, more families than ever are using Food Banks and Child Poverty affects the future of more than 62,000 children in Devon alone and 4.3 m throughout the UK (Child Poverty Action Group - March 2023). Racism, sexism and homophobia continue to affect children's self-image, stress levels, development and educational achievement (See links for further information). Each family's ability to support their child can be affected by health, poverty, prejudice or exploitation. Social attitudes to gender, culture, appearance, physical or learning ability; and the impact of social, economic and political choices, continue to cause inequality, despite the relative wealth of the UK.

Globally, problems created by people in wealthier countries disproportionately affect people across the planet. Environmental issues such as: storms, flooding, drought, famine and pollution and social issues like: disease, loss of education, exploitation, crime, migration and war, are faced by millions of people across the world. Ultimately, how we behave individually and collectively has an impact on others, our society and our environment, for good or bad.

We need to act on our personal values of compassion and empathy for our fellow humans, when we see difficulty and pain. We need to act together to stop the wasted potential of so many people through inequality of opportunity, sexism, homophobia, racism, bullying and victimisation. Understanding equality, and working towards it, is essential for a safer, better world for everyone.



Therefore, we expect that all **Children, Families and Staff at Offwell School:**

- refuse to discriminate against people because of family status, skin colour, disability, gender, culture, religion or socio-economic position; and never discriminated against;
- value the diversity of life, in each other, in our school, in society and in nature, and feel valued;
- protect and stand up for those who might be disadvantaged, bullied or discriminated against across all the protected characteristics - age, race, gender reassignment, disability, marriage and civil partnership, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, gender, sexual orientation - and know they are protected themselves;

Aims for our children - We want our pupils to:

Be Well:

- enjoy equal access and opportunity, which can mean some need more help than others for different reasons, at different times;
- enjoy a positive self-image and build positive relationships with others;

Learn Well:

- enjoy a wide range of activities and resources which open their eyes, hearts and minds to the world;
- recognise, name and value the things which make us unique;
- recognise, name and value the things which make us all the same;
- come to understand how victimisation happens and how we can prevent it;
- learn to critically assess information, so that they become intelligent life-long learners.

Live Well:

- make decisions and take actions firmly rooted in equality for all - to be courageous advocates;
- make a positive difference to society, now and in the future – to be good local and global citizens.

To achieve these aims, **We will ensure:**

- Staff and Governor development and training;
- Communication with families about our aims, actions and how they can help;
- An appropriately diverse curriculum and range of activities and resources.