

Ricards Lodge High School Equality Policy

Educating successful women of the future

Vision and Values

Ricards Lodge High School offers a broad and balanced, stimulating and forward-looking education together with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. The school's strong pastoral support structure enables careful monitoring of the progress and welfare of every girl. Ricards Lodge values individuality whilst emphasizing equally the importance of tolerance, teamwork and collective responsibility. The school values its partnership with parents in the education of their daughters.

The school strives to build confidence, integrity and excellence in a caring, innovative and happy community so that each girl leaves having been given the best possible chance of achieving her full potential, taking with her sound values, a breadth of skills and knowledge and ready to face the challenges of life.

We are proud of our comprehensive status and our girls come to us from a wide range of abilities backgrounds and cultures. We value the diversity of the staff and student body and celebrate the similarities and differences that exist between us.

We stimulate and challenge all of our students ensuring that as 'Successful Women of the Future' they have the qualifications, skills and motivation to make a difference to our society in whatever field they choose.

The Sixth Form (RR6) is co-educational and United in Excellence with Rutlish School to offer a very wide range of courses.

At Ricards Lodge we believe in four values which underpin our moral purpose and embed these across the school;

- Aspiration
- Equality
- Resilience
- Trust

The key aims of this policy are to:

a) Ensure that all students and staff have the opportunity to achieve their full potential through the development of aspirations and the motivation to succeed and the courage to try again if they do not achieve their desired outcome at first.

b) Ensure that students and staff treat each other and those in the wider community equally with honesty, dignity and respect at all times and develop a model of trust in order that all groups within our school community can flourish.

c) Prepare students for life in a diverse and global society; secure in the knowledge of their own worth and be able to take their place in an ever changing world.

Additionally this policy aims to meet our obligations to publish information to demonstrate how we are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and to publish equality objectives.

1. Equality and the Law

At Ricards Lodge we see all people as of equal value and welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010; which brings together all the legal requirements on equality that the private, public and voluntary sectors need to follow; to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations among all members of the school community We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections act 2006 to promote community cohesion.

School Vision

At Ricards Lodge we realise our vision to 'Educate Successful Women of the Future'.

- To ensure that all our students are able to take full and equal places as women; who take opportunities and assume responsibility in a changing global society
- To deliver to all our students a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum
- To provide a stimulating, secure and purposeful environment in which each student is motivated to strive for excellence
- To work together in an effective partnership with RR6, parents and carers and the wider community.

The school has, at its core, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students both through and beyond the curriculum. Staff make students aware of the importance of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with a different faith and/or beliefs in order to ensure that they are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Ricards Lodge High School is firmly committed to promoting, celebrating and valuing the diversity of all our staff and students. We aim to create an open and welcoming environment. We take seriously our commitment to equality of opportunity, and seek to challenge and address discrimination, inequality and stereotyping in all areas, including those associated with disability. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity

in which all those connected to our school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life. Our school values which have been agreed by all members of the school community reflect this commitment.

Responsibilities

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a student's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present and will be escalated using the school's behaviour for learning policy as required. All incidents are reported to the Head teacher and logged in SIMS and both racist and homophobic incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis.

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti. It may include use of technology such as mobile phones or email, instant messaging or social networking websites.

In addition we will:

General

- Ensure that we comply with all relevant legislation
- Communicate our commitment to equality and diversity to all members of the school community.
- Inform all staff, students and governors of their responsibility in promoting and maintaining equality.
- Monitor progress and achievement across all student groups

Curriculum

- The curriculum will display a discriminatory free approach to teaching and learning throughout the school.
- Departments will present opportunities for promoting cultural diversity and global learning within subjects.

Environment

All reasonable measures will be taken not to discriminate against staff or students with protected characteristics • Staff will be informed at the beginning and throughout the year of the individual needs of particular students

We will ensure through the Accessibility Plan that the school is a welcoming and accessible environment for all.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The school will endeavour to provide a wide range of activities to encourage the interests and talents of all students.

Employment

- The school will comply with the law regarding equal opportunities and employment
- New staff will be made aware of the policy and will be welcome to contribute to its development
- Advertising will state that we are an equal opportunities employer and will appoint the best candidate for the job.

Consultation and Review

It is a requirement that the development of this policy and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, students, parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback, parents' evening, parent consultation and aspirations meetings,
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET;
- Feedback from the Friends of Ricards, school council, student voice survey
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Pupil Profiles
- Discussion at the SMSC working group involving students and staff
- Feedback at Governing Body meetings.

This policy has been agreed by our Governing Body. In line with legislative requirements, we will publish our equality objectives every four years and annually publish information demonstrating how the school is meeting the aims of the general public sector equality duty.

We will publish this policy and our equality objectives on the school website. We will raise awareness of the objectives through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications and we will make hard copies available as required.

Policy dated May 2016