

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

BELIEFS:

- The school is one of the places where social behaviour is learnt and reinforced.
- The school has a responsibility to develop the potential of every student, regardless of gender, ethnic or socio-economic background, abilities, age, or geographical location.
- Positive action is needed to counter existing inequalities experienced by girls in schools.
- Gender differences are those behaviours and attitudes, which are constructed through social practice.

AIMS:

- To provide equal access to and participation in curriculum for all.
- To raise the awareness of the educational disadvantages experienced by girls.
- To provide a supportive school environment - including equitable classroom dynamics (i.e. equal time for boys and girls) and the elimination of gender based harassment.
- To ensure equitable resource allocation including yard space, sports equipment, use of computers, science equipment, etc.
- To encourage, support and value the decisions of those girls and boys who choose to participate in subjects and activities, which are not traditionally associated with their gender.
- To ensure that there will be an Equal Opportunity Coordinator to convene an E.O. Committee. This Committee will provide appropriate support and information to staff, students and parents, and will review the Action Plan annually.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION:

- Teacher awareness should be heightened through ongoing resourcing and professional development.
- Every opportunity will be taken to make all children aware of equal opportunities and inequalities that exist.
- A balance of resources will be provided within the school, which endeavours to cater for individual needs.
- All children should have the opportunity to explore their environment and feel comfortable to formulate and express their views and participate in any chosen activities.
- Materials within the school, e.g. Library, Hall, Sports Cupboard, will be regularly monitored and reviewed in line with the E.O. Policy.
- The ways in which gender is constructed will be examined.
- Women will be encouraged to take on management roles.
- The E.O. Committee will raise awareness of E.O. curriculum issues.
- School policies and programs will be regularly monitored and reviewed in line with the E.O. Policy.
- The needs of children at risk will be addressed.
- The E.O. Committee will ensure school organisation and management practice is fair and equitable.
- Parent awareness of E.O. issues will be raised through newsletter items, information nights, quest speakers, etc.

Endorsed by School Council 13/11/1995.