



**ADCOTE  
SCHOOL**

## **ANTI RACISM POLICY**

Reviewed by: S Roberts	Date: Sept 2024	Next review: Sept 2025
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## **AIMS**

Adcote was founded to educate girls and this policy applies to a single sex school. Adcote strives for equality of provision for all and recognises that its varied community provides opportunities for understanding and sharing the ways of others.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The United Kingdom is a multi-ethnic country with a significant migrant population and Adcote School has a number of students both boarding and domestic that come from differing ethnic backgrounds. It is essential that we take steps to educate our students about issues related to racism while highlighting the positive cultural value of a diverse ethnic mix from a global perspective. Adcote School will be proactive in implementing its duties described in the Race Amendment Act 2000 and the Equality Act 2010. The school will seek to promote racial equality and good race relations, and to eliminate racial discrimination. The school is committed to identifying and removing discriminatory practices and any form of racism or racist behaviour.

## **ADMISSIONS**

As stated in the School prospectus, Adcote accepts girls from a wide range of backgrounds. To guard against discrimination the criteria for admission to Adcote are as wide as possible and based on our commitment to being a non-selective school.

Adcote does not use race, colour or disability as criteria for admission. Students' names are accurately recorded and correctly pronounced. Students and staff are encouraged to accept and respect names from other cultures. Linguistic diversity is welcomed and positively supported.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

Adcote School aims to promote race equality and actively tackle racial discrimination within all areas of school life by:

- Challenging racial discrimination, racist behaviour, racist language or harassment, prejudice and stereotyping, however thoughtless or unintentional;
- Making sure that all students and staff are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential;
- Providing an environment which respects and values diversity and shows consideration for the traditions, cultures and religious practices of people from different racial groups and different geographical regions;
- Prevent direct and indirect, overt and covert discrimination on grounds of race or geographical origin to assist in the identification of possible barriers to equality of opportunity for students and staff and to ensure that these barriers are addressed where possible.

## **Definition of Racism**

Racism is a form of bullying. It can be both (a) institutional and (b) personal, overt or subtle, intentional or unintentional.

#### **a. Institutional racism:**

- The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report defined this as: 'The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic people.'
- When a child is subject to racist bullying or harassment, their behaviour and attainment are likely to be affected; if the behaviour is treated in isolation without taking into consideration the issues and effects of racism, this can be described as institutional racism. The racist element must be explicitly recognised and dealt with.
- This type of racism is also covert and indirect and therefore can be difficult to identify and address. It is often evident in the assumptions, beliefs and values that affect people's instinctive responses. It can be demonstrated subconsciously in subtle ways and Adcote School recognises the need consciously to challenge such attitudes.

#### **b. Personal racism:**

This is often direct and identifiable and can be manifested through harassment and offensive behaviour in the following ways:

- Physical assault against a person or group due to their colour, ethnicity, geographical origin or culture;
- Derogatory name calling, insults, ridiculing and racist jokes;
- Racist graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist badges or insignia;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to behave in a racist way;
- Racist comments within the context of lessons.

#### **Accountability**

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given the support to exercise this responsibility.

- All racist incidents that are reported will need to be investigated and recorded. All staff are required to promote racial equality and good race relations.
- Staff are expected not to discriminate on racial grounds and are expected to attend training or to read information provided by the Headteacher about any changes to relevant legislation.
- Staff are expected to always challenge racist and geographically-biased attitudes and behaviour.
- Staff are also expected to be aware of the need to report suspicions of racism to the Headteacher, Deputy Head or Assistant Heads.
- Where appropriate the School will be prepared to contact the police if a racial crime has been committed.

### **Action when racism is suspected or reported.**

Alleged incidents of racism should be investigated in line with our Behaviour Policy. Statements should be taken by the victim, witnesses, and perpetrator.

If an incidence of racism is proven, the Assistant Head (Pastoral) who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead will need to be informed. They will then decide the appropriate sanction with the Headteacher.

### **Possible disciplinary action by the school**

- An official warning from the Assistant Head (Pastoral) after a sincere apology has been made;
- An Assistant Head, Deputy Head or Headteacher Detention;
- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises and life (such as co-curricular activities);
- In serious cases or where there is repeated racism, exclusion (temporary) from the school for a fixed term;
- Continued racist behaviour will be incompatible with staying at the school and permanent exclusion may be used in such cases.

Incidences should also be reported to Shropshire Council on [sscpbusinessunit@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sscpbusinessunit@shropshire.gov.uk)

It is important that the victim of the racist incident is made to feel happy with the outcome of any disciplinary measures taken. It is also important to remember that anyone who has been a victim of a racist incident has the legal right to report it as a crime to the police.

See the school's Anti-Bullying Policy for further details about our response to bullying in general.