



An East Sheen Story: Equality

February 2026

As part of our ongoing commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), we recently spoke with a group of Key Stage 2 pupils to hear directly from them about what equality looks like and feels like in our school. Their reflections were thoughtful, mature and inspiring.

What Does Equality Mean to Our Pupils?

Pupils spoke confidently about fairness and inclusion, describing equality as *“treating everyone the same”*, before having a great discussion about the difference between *‘the same’* and the equity of giving *‘everyone the same chances and importance’*, and *“helping people who need extra help.”*

They highlighted the importance of sensitivity to individual differences and praised teachers for *“including everyone in lessons”* and *“choosing a mix of children to answer.”*

Where Do They See Equality in Action?

Children shared many examples of times when they felt everyone was included:

- **Sports Day** was mentioned repeatedly as a moment where *“everyone is involved”* and pupils support one another.
- In **PE**, pupils appreciated that *“everyone plays the same game and gets support regardless of disabilities and differences.”*
- The **school assemblies and performances** stood out as inclusive whole-school events where *“nobody is excluded and everyone can audition.”*
- They also spoke about learning about and celebrating different religions and cultures, saying it helps them *“understand others by being immersed”* in a range of traditions.
- Diversity Day food celebrations received enthusiastic praise too.

Respect for Differences

The pupils expressed pride in the school’s culture of kindness and respect:

- *“We are taught to respect people from all different cultures.”*
- *“We don’t make fun of people. Bullying is not OK.”*
- *“If someone was unfair, we would stand up for the person and tell a teacher.”*

They also recognised the importance of being mindful about what they say, especially regarding religious or cultural differences.

The conversation touched on the many ways equality is woven into the curriculum. Pupils confidently listed themes they have learned about, from **Windrush, Suffragettes and Apartheid** to **Black History Month, Neurodiversity Celebration Week, Kindness Week** and **LGBT History Month**.

How Could We Improve Further?

Children were keen to celebrate what is already working well, with one pupil noting, *“I think our school already has everything it needs. Teachers help, the Phoenix Room helps, and friends are supportive.”*

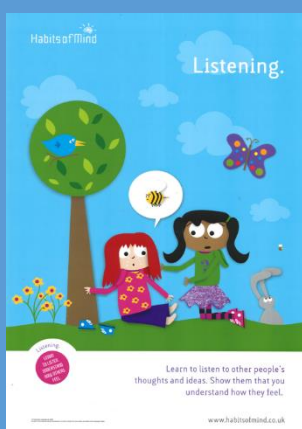
Suggestions for future improvement included:

- More **wheelchair-friendly equipment**, particularly for break times.
- Additional initiatives to support friendships and emotional wellbeing for all pupils.
- Continuing to ensure that the school remains a safe place for all family types, with pupils reaffirming that *“gay and lesbian families are welcome here.”*

A Community for Everyone

What came through most clearly was a shared belief that *East Sheen Primary School is a place where everyone belongs*. As one child beautifully put it to the Headteacher and Link Governor for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

“It’s a school for everyone. No matter our differences, we all belong here, are kind, and everyone is treated equally.”



Thinking Schools—Habits of Mind

One ‘Habit of Mind’ we find particularly important when thinking about equality is ‘Listening’. We encourage pupils to listen with empathy, to explore and understand how another person might be feeling and to acknowledge a way forward to respect others. This is important when listening to each other as we discuss our different backgrounds, religions, genders, and identities.

‘An accredited Thinking School (such as ESPS) shows excellence in taking an explicit, evidence informed, whole school approach to developing pupils’ cognitive capability and intelligent learning behaviours that serve beyond the school-life and curriculum.’
– Thinking Matters Magazine