

Our curriculum is built around The Equalities Act of 2010 and the Protected Characteristics.

Age	Disability	Gender reassignment
Race	Religion and belief	Sex
Sexual orientation	Pregnancy and maternity	Marriage and civil partnership

These are deliberately and specifically taught through the power of storytelling and significant people and events throughout the curriculum.

The three protected characteristics of gender, race and ethnicity and faith or belief are taught in depth through our humanities curriculum (for example 'gender' is referenced through each history topic – lives of women through historical ages, the influence of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, the role of women in Viking and Saxon Britain, differences and similarities between the lives of Greek and Spartan women in Ancient Greece and the barriers faced by the 'Sheffield Women of Steel' during World War Two, and how these were overcome.)

Year 1	In Cycle 3, children learn about growing equality in toys through time and are taught to question gender stereotypes.
Year 2	Children learn about the contribution of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale as they answer the question 'Who was the greatest trailblazing nurse of the 19 th Century?' Children examine the gender

	and racial inequality they faced and meet present day role models who break historic gender stereotypes in professions.
Year 3	When learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age, children learn that it was in these eras that gender stereotype roles were established. They compare this to present day and question how the roles of men and women have changed over time.
Year 4	Children learn the difference between invasion and immigration when they learn about why and how the Vikings came to Britain. They learn to question imagery in the media as they examine perceptions of the Vikings as portrayed through historical sources. Children link this to present day immigration and refugees across Europe.
Year 5	Through their learning about Ancient Greece, children learn about the origins of democracy and law making. They compare how fair the Ancient Greek system of law-making was to present day to evaluate which is fairer.
Year 6	Children learn about the journey towards equality for women since 1901. Using the points of suffrage, economic independence and social mobility, children chart the progress in Britain towards greater equality, and compare this to present day around the world.

At Nether Edge Primary School, we prioritise the inherent value of storytelling to teach our children. In the case of equalities and the protected characteristics, stories help children to explore some of the most powerful aspects of growing up in an enjoyable, accessible and non-threatening way. Exploring topics like the protected characteristics, diversity and inclusivity through stories gives board opportunities for discussion and questions, while ensuring the knowledge-rich, empowering content we want for all our children. It is important that all children see themselves represented in the stories we share so everyone knows they are important and valued members of our community and society.

Each class has a carefully selected library of texts that link to the protected characteristics you can see [here](#).