



“It's Not Fair!”

Foundry Lane is a wonderfully inclusive community. Around 22% of our pupils have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and are supported to take part fully in mainstream education. This richness can sometimes feel confusing for children who ask, “Why does so-and-so get extra time?” or “It's not fair, I never get that.” Here is how we might explain it.

Equality vs equity

Schools are legally required to make reasonable adjustments so SEND children can access the curriculum and flourish. To children without those needs, these adjustments can look unfair. It helps to unpack what “fair” really means.

Imagine everyone standing on identical boxes to watch a game over a fence: equal, but not fair, because it does not account for different heights. Giving each person the support they need to see over the fence, even if that means different numbers of boxes for different people, is equity, and it is genuinely fairer.

Not all needs are visible

While a height difference is easy to see, many SEND needs are not visible or obvious, which is often what makes reasonable adjustments confusing to other children.

Talking it through

When your child questions why another child is “allowed” something they are not, it is a good opportunity to talk about the difference between equality and equity. Foundry Lane's inclusive approach means every child gets what they need to thrive, and that is something to be proud of.