Equality Information and Objectives Plan



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1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty (PSED) by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

The Department for Education (DfE) has published non-statutory advice that sets out schools' obligations under the PSED. Paragraph 5.1 explains that the PSED extends to the following protected characteristics:

- Race
- Disability
- Sex
- Age
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Gender reassignment

However, paragraph 5.2 notes that, for schools, age is "a relevant characteristic in considering their duties in their role as an employer but not in relation to pupils".

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- <u>The Equality Act 2010</u>, which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination
- <u>The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011</u>, which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: <u>The Equality Act 2010 and schools.</u>

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The designated member of staff for equality will:

- Support the headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- · Meet with the equality link governor to raise and discuss any issues
- Support the headteacher in identifying any staff training needs, and deliver training as necessary

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

4. Eliminating discrimination

The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

This policy and objectives are shared with staff once every year.

5. Advancing equality of opportunity

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school societies)

6. Fostering good relations

The school aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, citizenship and personal, social, health education (PSHE), but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures.
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues.

- Working with our local community. This includes organising school trips and activities based around the local community.
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs.

7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the school considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays
- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities
- · Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls

8. Equality objectives

Objective 1: to ensure that all children are progressing well (focusing on race, SEND, gender).

Objective 2: to decrease the % of SEND children who are persistently absent (11.9% in March 2024).

Objective 3: to develop children's and staff's understanding of inclusive language, so that there is a decrease in discriminatory language used by children and so that staff deal with discriminatory language consistently.

9. Accessibility Plan

Improvements in assessment of needs and access to the curriculum – SNAP assessment to be purchased and used and next steps actioned

Physical improvements to increase access to education and associated services – review provision for children in wheelchairs

Improvements in the provision of information in a range of formats for disabled pupils – Use of different colour paper, sized fonts for children with visual needs, especially for tests and assessments

10. Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher will review the equality information we publish, [described in sections 4-7 above], at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by governing board at least every 4 years.

This document will be approved by governing board.

11. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

• SEND policy