



SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY

1. Introduction to the Policy

The School has created a Single Equality Policy in response to changes in legislation. Additionally to this the School wants to ensure that practice, procedures and, most importantly, the ethos of the School reflects a community which is free from discrimination, valuing all members of the school community equally and fairly.

As a school we value everyone equally and treat all staff, learners and visitors with respect and dignity within a safe positive working and learning environment free from discrimination, harassment and victimisation. We are committed to providing high quality education in a welcoming and supportive environment enabling everyone regardless of their race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, sex or marital status. We also seek to ensure that we include the new protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 namely maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership and gender reassignment in all areas of our work to achieve equality and fairness. The school is aware of the socio economic duty created by the Equality Act 2010 and although this is not a direct requirement we believe that as a school we must ensure that deprivation is not a factor which will affect recruitment, retention, achievement, or success.

The School has chosen an integrated approach to Equality and Diversity for several reasons:

- To reflect the Equality duty of the Equality Act 2010
- To facilitate the identification of our equality priorities
- To improve the understanding of staff, learners and visitors of their rights and responsibilities in relation to Equality and Diversity
- To improve social cohesion by seeking to find similarities rather than focussing on difference.
- To include the new concept of dual discrimination [Equality Act 2010].

By bringing all of the protected characteristics together within one policy the School strives to ensure that excellence permeates all sectors of the School regardless of diversity and difference.

2. Important changes to National Policy

It is now unlawful to discriminate against a transgender student.

It is now unlawful to discriminate against a student who is pregnant or has recently had a baby.

New Positive Action provisions allow schools to target measures that are designed to alleviate disadvantages experienced by, or to meet the particular needs of, students with particular protected characteristics. Such measures will need to be a proportionate way of achieving the relevant aim – for example providing special catch-up classes for Roma children or a project to engage specifically with alienated Asian boys.

The reasonable adjustment duty has been extended, this requires schools to provide auxiliary aids and services to disabled students. Following the recent consultation on implementation and approach, this duty was introduced in September 2012.

3. Promoting Equality through the Curriculum

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide all our students with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, teaching and learning will:

- Ensure quality of access for all students and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour;
- Provide opportunities for students to appreciate their own culture and religions and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Develop students' advocacy skills so that they can detect bias, challenge discrimination, leading to justice and equality;

- Ensure that the curriculum covers issues of equalities, diversity, religion, human rights and inclusion;
- Provide educational visits and extra-curricular activities that involve all student groupings.

Learning Environment

There is a consistently high expectation of all students regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or social background. All students are encouraged to improve on their own achievements and not to measure themselves against others. Parents are also encouraged to view their own children's achievements in this light.

To secure the desired outcomes we recognise:

- Adults in the School will try to provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity;
- The School places a very high priority on the provision for special educational needs and disability. We aim to meet all students' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered programmes of work
- The School must provide an environment in which all students have equal access to all facilities and resources;

Curriculum

At the School, we aim to ensure that;

- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality and diversity;
- Students will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality
- All steps are taken to ensure that all students have access to mainstream curriculum by taking into account the cultural and lifestyle backgrounds of all students, their linguistic needs are taken into account and their learning styles are considered.

Ethos and Atmosphere

- At the School, we are aware that those involved in the leadership of the School community are instrumental in demonstrating mutual respect between all members of the School community;
- There should be an 'openness' of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the School;
- The students are encouraged to greet visitors to the School with friendliness and respect;
- The displays around the School are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored;
- Although physical access to the School is difficult in parts of the school, vehicular access to a School door can be easily arranged for disabled visitors;
- Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities.

Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within the School is a high priority. These resources should:

- Reflect "the reality of an ethnically, culturally and sexual diverse society;"
- Show positive images of males and females in society including people with disabilities;
- Reflect non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context;
- Include materials to raise awareness of equal opportunity issues;
- Not include explicitly and implicitly racist, sexist, homophobic or ageist materials.

Language

We recognise that it is important that all members of the School community use appropriate language which:

- Does not transmit or confirm stereotypes;
- Creates and enhances positive images of particular groups identified at the beginning of this document;
- Uses correct terminology in referring to particular groups or individuals e.g. Inuit rather Eskimo, Native Americans rather than Red Indians;

Extra-Curricular Provision

It is the policy of the School to provide equal access to all activities.

We undertake responsibility for making contributors to extra-curricular activities aware of the School's commitment to equality of opportunity (e.g. sports helpers, coach drivers) by providing them with written guidelines drawn from this policy.

Provision for EAL/Bilingual Students

We undertake at the School to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bilingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups may include:

- Students whom English is an additional language;
- Students who are new to the United Kingdom.

Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance

- All students are encouraged to consider the full range of career opportunities available to them with no discriminatory boundaries placed on them due to their disability, gender or race;
- All students/staff/parents/carers are given support as appropriate when they experience discrimination. We also recognise that the perpetrators of discrimination are themselves sometimes victims of their personal circumstances and therefore where appropriate remedial work is done to ensure that the actions do not occur again;
- Positive role models are used throughout the School to ensure that different groups of students can see themselves reflected in the School community;
- Emphasis is placed on the value that diversity brings to the School community rather than the challenges.

4. Procurement

Procurement is the process of acquiring goods, works and services, covering both acquisitions from third parties and from in-house providers. The school will proactively consider the equality requirements of every contract they tender if it is relevant and proportionate and will consider including equality-related award criteria or contract conditions. All contractors will be advised of the School's Single Equality Policy.

5. Staffing and Staff Development

We recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff. This must include student's access to a balance of male and female staff at all key stages.

We undertake to encourage the career development and aspirations of all individuals.

It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of students in the various dimensions of equality of opportunity.

It is now unlawful for employers to ask health-related questions of applicants before a job offer, unless the questions are specifically related to an intrinsic function of the work. This means that we can no longer, as a matter of course, require job applicants to complete a generic health questionnaire as part of the application procedure. We will ensure that practices in school ensure that we are complying with both the Health Standards Regulations and Section 60 of the Equality Act.

Staff Recruitment and Professional Development

- All posts are advertised formally and open to the widest pool of applicants;
- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and ensure equality good practice through the recruitment and selection process;
- Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds;
- Equalities policies and practices are covered in all staff inductions
- All supply staff are made aware of equalities policies and practices;

6. Harassment and Bullying

It is the duty of this School to challenge all types of discriminatory behaviour e.g.:

- Unwanted attentions (verbal or physical);
- Unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions about another person's appearance, character, race, ability or disability, sexuality, gender (or transgender)
- The School has a clear, agreed procedure for dealing with incidents such as these.

7. Partnerships with Parents/Carers and the Wider Community

We aim to work in partnership with parents to help all students to achieve their potential.

We wish to affirm our continuing commitment to reach out to all diverse groups within our immediate community and beyond. We will do this by:

- All parents/carers being encouraged to participate at all levels in the full life of the School;
- As part of the School's commitment to equality and diversity, we will ask members of the School community including students, staff, local community members, parents/carers, local faith groups and local disability groups to support the School with matters related to its equalities duties.

8. Responsibility for the Policy

In our School, all members of the School community have a responsibility towards supporting the equality agenda. Responsibilities are laid out as follows:

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- The School complies with all equalities legislation relevant to the School community;
- The School's Equality policy is maintained and updated regularly;
- That procedures and strategies related to the policy are implemented;
- A Equality Governor will have an overview, on behalf of the governing body, on all racist incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy and ensure that appropriate action is taken in relation to all said incidents

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for:

- Along with the Governing body, providing leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- Overseeing the implementation of the Equality Policy;
- Co-ordinating the activities related to equality and evaluating impact;
- Ensuring that all who enter the School are aware of, and comply with, the Equality Policy;
- Ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given relevant training and support;
- Taking appropriate action in response to racist incidents, discrimination against persons with a disability, sexual harassment and discrimination.

All staff are responsible for:

- Dealing with incidents of discrimination and knowing how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping;
- Not discriminating on grounds of race, disability, or other equality issues;
- Keeping up to date with equalities legislation by attending training events organised by the School or Local Authority or recognised training provider.

We ensure that the commitments embodied in our policy statement for equality permeate the full range of our policies and practices:

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.

10. Complaints

The School's Compliments, Comments and Complaints policy outlines that the school encourages users to make suggestions to help improve its service and recognises the right to complain. The School is committed

to responding to suggestions and complaints positively, efficiently, confidentially and courteously. Although the procedures are mainly for parents and students, anyone with a relevant interest can respond.

The School will accept compliments, comments or complaints in any format. The School also regularly holds Focus Groups with both students and staff, where complaints are always recorded.

The School, where possible, captures the gender, age, ethnicity and disability status of all complainants. This information is recorded anonymously in the complaints register and analysed at the end of each year. The analysis is reviewed by the SLT and the Governors and action taken if particular groups, especially if they have protected characteristics, are being discriminated against.

Appendix A - Definitions

Direct Discrimination

Direct discrimination occurs when a person treats one person less favourably than they would another because of a protected characteristic. The new definition of direct discrimination extends protection based on association and perception.

Direct discrimination can occur if, for example:

A School tutor refuses to let a student go on a residential trip because they are a wheelchair-user.

Discrimination based on association can occur if, for example:

An employee is overlooked for promotion because their partner has undergone gender reassignment.

Discrimination based on perception can occur if, for example:

An employer decides not to promote a female employee because a senior member of staff believes her to be pregnant irrespective of whether she is pregnant or not.

Dual Discrimination

Dual discrimination protects people who experience direct discrimination because of a combination of two protected characteristics (marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity are not included in these provisions).

Discrimination based on dual discrimination can occur if, for example a person was from a BME (Black, Minority Ethnic) group and also had a disability.

Indirect Discrimination

Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision, criterion or practice is neutral on the face of it, but its impact particularly disadvantages people with a protected characteristic, unless the person applying the provision can justify it as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Indirect discrimination may occur if, for example:

An employer who requires staff to commit to working from 8pm to 11pm every evening indirectly discriminates against women, who are more likely to be primary carers of children, unless this can be objectively justified as above.

Harassment

There are three types of harassment:

- Unwanted conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the complainant, or violating the complainant's dignity (this applies to all the protected characteristics apart from pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership).
- Unwanted conduct of a sexual nature (sexual harassment).
- Treating a person less favourably than another person because they have either submitted to, or did not submit to, sexual harassment or harassment related to sex or gender reassignment.

Harassment may occur if, for example:

A member of staff makes comments on a learner's sexuality in a way that makes the learner feel uncomfortable. The perceptions of the recipient of the harassment are very important and harassment can have been deemed to have occurred even if the intention was not present, but the recipient felt they were being harassed.

Victimisation

Victimisation takes place where one person treats another less favourably because he or she has asserted their legal rights in line with the Equality Act 2010 or helped someone else to do so.

Victimisation may occur if, for example:

A student alleges that they have encountered racism from a teacher and as a result they are ignored by other staff members.

Failure to make adjustments

If a school fails to make reasonable adjustments to enable a disabled person to study successfully at the school this may be illegal. The school must avoid as far as possible by reasonable means the disadvantage which a disabled student experiences because of their disability.

Appendix B - The Equality Act 2010 and protected characteristics

The nine main pieces of legislation that have merged are:

- the Equal Pay Act 1970
- the Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- the Race Relations Act 1976
- the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
- the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- the Equality Act 2006, Part 2
- the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

Protected characteristics

Age

The Act protects employees of all ages but remains the only protected characteristic that allows employers to justify direct discrimination, i.e. if an employer can demonstrate that to apply different treatment because of someone's age constitutes a proportionate means of meeting a legitimate aim, then no discrimination will have taken place. The Act continues to allow employers to have a default retirement age of 65, as long as the default retirement age remains.

Disability

A person is a disabled person (someone who has the protected characteristic of disability) if they have a physical and/or mental impairment which has what the law calls 'a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

There is no need for a person to have a medically diagnosed cause for their impairment; what matters is the effect of the impairment not the cause.

- Conditions that affect the body such as arthritis, hearing or sight impairment (unless this is correctable by glasses or contact lenses), diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, conditions such as HIV infection, cancer and multiple sclerosis, as well as loss of limbs or the use of limbs are covered.
- HIV infection, cancer and multiple sclerosis are covered from the point of diagnosis.
- Severe disfigurement (such as scarring) is covered even if it has no physical impact on the person with the disfigurement, provided the long-term requirement is met (see below).
- People who are registered as blind or partially sighted, or who are certified as being blind or partially sighted by a consultant ophthalmologist, are automatically treated as disabled under the Act.
- Mental impairment includes conditions such as dyslexia and autism as well as learning disabilities such as Down's syndrome and mental health conditions such as depression and schizophrenia.

The Act includes a new protection arising from disability and now states that it is unfair to treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with a disability. An example provided is the tendency to make spelling mistakes arising from dyslexia. Indirect discrimination now covers a disabled person, which means that a job applicant could claim that a particular rule or requirement disadvantages people with that disability.

Gender reassignment

Gender reassignment is a personal process (rather than a medical process) which involves a person expressing their gender in a way that differs from or is inconsistent with the physical sex they were born with.

This personal process may include undergoing medical procedures or may simply include choosing to dress in a different way as part of the personal process of change.

It is discriminatory to treat people who propose to start to or have completed a process to change their gender less favourably, for example, because they are absent from work for this reason.

Marriage and Civil partnership

This act protects people who enter a civil partnership and gives equal rights.

Pregnancy and maternity

The Act protects women against discrimination because they are pregnant or have given birth.

It is discrimination to treat a woman (including a female learner of any age) less favourably because she is or has been pregnant, has given birth in the last 26 weeks or is breastfeeding a baby who is 26 weeks or younger.

It is direct sex discrimination to treat a woman (including a female student of any age) less favourably because she is breastfeeding a child who is more than 26 weeks old.

Race

The Act protects people against discrimination on the grounds of their race, which includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin. A person has the protected characteristic of race if they belong to a particular racial group, such as 'British people'. Racial groups can comprise two or more racial groups such as 'British Asians'.

Religion or belief

The Act protects people against discrimination on the grounds of their religion or their belief, including a lack of any belief.

Sex

The Act protects both men and women against discrimination on the grounds of their sex.

Sexual orientation

The Act protects bisexual, gay, heterosexual and lesbian people from discrimination on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

Appendix C – Action Plan

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
All	Publish and promote the Single Equality Policy through the school website, newsletter and staff meetings.	Question about parent awareness of Equality Scheme in annual survey?	HT / AH	Annually	All staff aware of the single equality policy. Parents are aware of the Equality Plan
Race Equality Duty	Identify, respond and report racist incidents as outlined in the Plan. Report the figures to the Governing body / Local Authority on a termly basis.	The Headteacher / Governing Body will use the data to assess the impact of the school's response to incidents i.e. have whole school / year group approaches led to a decrease in incidents, can repeat perpetrators be identified, are pupils and parents satisfied with the response?	HT / Govs	Reporting: December, April, July	Teaching staff are aware of and respond to racist incidents. Racist incident log is kept up to date Consistent nil reporting is challenged by the Governing Body
Disability Equality Duty	Update the accessibility plan to allow access to all members of the current school community	Question to be included in school events feedback form	DH	September, January and April	School site is accessible for all students, staff, govs and parents
Race Equality Duty	Track and record the ethnic balance of staff within the school and job applicants	Governors to be presented with a yearly report to see if any trends need to be addressed.	AH (Data) / Data manager / Govs		Statistics available for the ethnic makeup of pupils, staff and govs. Successful / unsuccessful job applicants tracked

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
<i>All</i>	<i>Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.</i>	<i>Achievement data analysed by race, gender and disability</i>	<i>AH(Data) / Govs</i>	<i>Annually in Sept</i>	<i>Analysis of teacher assessments / annual data demonstrates equality for all groups</i>
<i>All</i>	<i>Ensure that the curriculum promotes role models and heroes that young people positively identify with, which reflects the school's diversity in terms of race, gender and disability.</i>	<i>Increase in pupils' participation, confidence and achievement levels</i>			<i>Notable increase in participation and confidence of targeted groups</i>
<i>All</i>	<i>Ensure that displays in classrooms and corridors promote diversity in terms of race, gender and ethnicity.</i>	<i>Increase in pupil participation, confidence and positive identity – monitor through Life Skills and Tutor time</i>	<i>AH(Teaching)/HO KS3</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>More diversity reflected in school displays across all year groups</i>
<i>All</i>	<i>Ensure all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school e.g. through involvement in the House System (by election or co-option), house assemblies, fund raising etc.</i>	<i>House representation monitored by race, gender, disability</i>	<i>Member of staff leading on the House system</i>	<i>From Jan 2013</i>	<i>More diversity in school house council membership</i>
<i>Community cohesion</i>	<i>Celebrate cultural events throughout the year to increase pupil awareness and understanding of different communities e.g. Diwali, Eid, Christmas.</i>	<i>Life Skills / Tutor time</i>	<i>Member of staff leading on Citizenship</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Increased awareness of different communities shown in pupil voice</i>