Equality information and objectives policy

Haylands Primary School

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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, harassment, victimisation 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 a relevant protected characteristic
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Marriage or civil partnership
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation

Our school aims to promote respect for difference and diversity in accordance with our values, such as respect, care, co-operation, perseverance, enthusiasm, imagination, independence and aspiration.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- The Equality Act 2010, which introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty and protects people from discrimination

- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011, 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: The Equality Act 2010 and schools, the technical guidance for schools from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and guidance from the Government Equalities Office on meeting the specific duties that support the Public Sector Equality Duty.

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/carers
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher
- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality biannually, and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full governing board regarding any issues

The headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors
- Have "due regard" when making a decision or taking an action to whether it may have particular implications for people with particular protected characteristics

The designated member of staff for equality will:

- Support the headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- 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.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training every

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 that 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
- 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)

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Analyse the attainment data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying)
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

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 and economic (PSHE) education, 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
- Making pupils aware of our behaviour and anti-bullying policies
- Taking part in the EARA (Equality & Rights Advocate) group
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. The EARA group will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies, and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and 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. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made. We consider equality implications before and at the time that we develop policy and make decisions and continue to review these on a continuing basis.

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

As a school, we are required to publish equality information every year:

- We must report on at least 1 equality objective once every 4 years – we've chosen July 2027 to be our deadline for this

Objective 1

Improve the persistent absence rate of pupils eligible for the pupil premium

Why we have chosen this objective:

Currently we have a high percentage of persistent absentees who are eligible for pupil premium and we want to close this gap

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Identify barriers to attendance for these pupils and work alongside the EWS to find ways to improve attendance at school

Objective 2

Improve knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable pupils to appreciate and value difference and diversity, e.g. increasing understanding between pupils from different faith communities

Why we have chosen this objective:

We are a school predominantly with white British pupils and we want to make sure that all of our pupils show tolerance and respect for other communities and cultures

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Participate in EARA groups and help these pupils to inform others

Objective 3

Narrow the attainment gap in reading and writing between girls and boys

Why we have chosen this objective:

Our Year 6 data shows that boys outperform girls in reading but girls outperform boys in writing. We want to eliminate this gender gap ands ensure all pupils are performing in line with national, regardless of gender

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Improve our high-quality inclusive teaching so that all pupils' needs are being met within lessons

Objective 4

Train all members of staff and governors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by the beginning of the next academic year. Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements.

Why we have chosen this objective:

So that all staff involved in recruitment understand their duties with regards to the equality act

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Train staff involved in recruitment and selection processes

9. Monitoring arrangements

The governing board will update the equality information we publish, at least every year.

School-specific equality objectives will be reviewed by the head teacher at least every 4 years.

This document will be reviewed by governors annually, to ensure continued compliance with the PSED.

This document will be approved by governors.

10. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Risk assessment
- SEN information report
- SEND policy