

Eastbrook Secondary School



Equality Information and Objectives Policy

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Policy amendments may occur at any time. Please consult the Policies page on the website for the latest update.

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1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty 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.

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.](#)

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 daily to the headteacher

The equality link governor will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality every term 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 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 among staff and pupils.
- Meet with the equality link governor every term to raise and discuss any issues and how they are being addressed.
- 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 aspects of the Equality Act as part of their induction in September, and all staff receive refresher training during each academic year.

The school has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues, and an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

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 pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the 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) In

fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
- Analyse the above 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
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils 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.

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

The school keeps a written record (known as an Equality Impact Assessment) to show we have actively considered our equality duties and asked ourselves relevant questions. This is recorded at the same time as the risk assessment when planning school trips and activities. The record is completed by the member of staff organising the activity and is stored electronically with the completed risk assessment.

8. Equality Objectives

Eastbrook School has identified the following Equality Objectives to focus on over the next three years.

OBJECTIVE	WHY	WHAT
Staff & governors more fully understand the Equality Duty and the college's responsibility	A full understanding of the issues will allow sustainable changes to be made.	Staff training day including guest speakers, student speakers, group discussions, department pledges
		Governor meeting Staff training day Governor meeting
<p>To increase attendance of students with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● complex health and medical needs ● challenging behaviours/complex SEMH 	To increase the opportunities for these students to attend school and participate in education.	<p>Improve the system for regularly monitoring attendance.</p> <p>Work with families to overcome barriers to attendance. Refer to other agencies, where appropriate.</p>
Celebrating diversity events together	The celebration of diversity will allow for the members of the school community to understand and exercise tolerance across the school and increase understanding, compassion.	<p>World Mental Health Day</p> <p>Anti-Bullying week</p> <p>Black History Month</p> <p>Race equality week</p> <p>Holocaust Day</p> <p>LGBTQ+ History Month</p> <p>International Women's Day</p> <p>Autism Awareness Month</p> <p>Comic</p>
School is visually represented as a community which includes and values diversity at all levels	Staff and students increasingly see themselves as included and valued. Staff are increasingly recognising the opportunity for progression to all levels in the organisation.	Increased use of diverse visuals on school websites, in recruitment materials, in school displays
Closing the academic gaps for SEND, Pupil Premium, Looked After Children and other vulnerable groups	The Equality Act 2010 introduced a single Public Sector Equality Duty, which applies to all schools,	<p>Demonstrate high expectations and operate consistent routines and protocols</p> <p>Deliver a powerful, knowledge-rich curriculum for all</p>

	<p>Eastbrook must have due regard to the need to:</p> <p>advance equality and opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</p> <p>A key area of improvement for the academy remains to raise the achievement of disadvantaged students.</p>	<p>Whole school focus on literacy</p> <p>Focus on outcomes and overcoming the barriers to achieving them Offer the very best teaching and support</p> <p>Use the Pupil Premium effectively for closing identified gaps</p>
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9. Monitoring Arrangements

The Headteacher will oversee an update to the equality information we publish at least every year.

- This document will be reviewed by the Headteacher and Governing Body at least every 2 years.
- This document will be approved by the Governing Body

10. Links and other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan and DDA

APPENDIX B: BACKGROUND INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

Part Two Our Legal Duties Legislation relating to equality and discrimination is laid out in the Equality Act 2010. This legislation covers employment (work), the provision of services and public functions, and education. Employers (schools) are liable for discriminatory acts of their employees if they did not take reasonable steps to prevent such acts. Employees can be liable for acts (where an employer took reasonable steps to prevent such acts).

The 'Protected Characteristics' within equality law are:

- Age – A person of a particular age (e.g. 32-year-old) or a range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds). Age discrimination does not apply to the provision of education, but it does apply to work.
- Disability – A person has a disability if s/he has, or has had, a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day today activities. It includes discrimination arising from something connected with their disability such as use of aids or medical conditions. HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer are all considered as disabilities, regardless of their effect.
- Gender reassignment – A person (usually with 'gender dysphoria') who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone gender reassignment (the process of changing physiological or other attributes of sex, therefore changing from male to female, or female

to male). 'Trans' is an umbrella term to describe people with this 'Gender Identity'. 'Intersex' or 'Third Sex' is not covered by the Act but the school will treat Intersex children with the same degree of equality as children with gender dysphoria. Children as young as five may begin to show signs of gender dysphoria and therefore it is relevant in any school environment.

- Marriage and civil partnership – Marriage and civil partnership discrimination does not apply to the provision of education, but it does apply to work.
- Pregnancy and maternity – Maternity refers to the period of 26 weeks after the birth (including still births), which reflects the period of a woman's Ordinary Maternity Leave entitlement in the employment context. In employment, it also covers (where eligible) the period up to the end of her Additional Maternity Leave.
- Race – A person's colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin. It includes Travellers and Gypsies as well as White British people.
- Religion and belief – Religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition. Religion and belief discrimination does not prevent a school from carrying out collective worship or other curriculum-based activities, but pupils may withdraw from acts of collective worship.
- Sexual orientation – A person's sexual orientation towards the same sex (lesbian or gay), the opposite sex (heterosexual) or to both sexes (bisexual). Although children may not identify as gay or lesbian when very young, promotion of sexual orientation equality is as relevant in a primary school environment as it is in a secondary school. For example, a child may have an older sibling or parent who is gay. Children may experience friends 'questioning' or 'coming out' when they are in secondary school or college. Schools with a particular religious' ethos cannot discriminate against lesbian, gay or bisexual pupils. It is also unlawful to discriminate because of the sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment of another person with whom the pupil is associated. So, for example, a school must not discriminate by refusing to admit a pupil because his parents are gay men or lesbians. It would be race discrimination to treat a white pupil less favourably because she has a black boyfriend. 'Prohibited Conduct' (acts that are unlawful)
- Direct discrimination - Less favourable treatment because of a protected characteristic.
- Indirect discrimination - A provision, criteria or practice that puts a person at a particular disadvantage and is not a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- Harassment - Conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. It includes harassment by a third party (e.g. customer or contractor) in the employment context.
- Victimisation - Subjecting a person to a detriment because of their involvement with proceedings (a complaint) brought in connection with this Act.
- Discrimination arising from disability - Treating someone unfavourably because of something connected with their disability (such as periods of absence from work or medical conditions) and failure to make reasonable adjustments.
- Gender re-assignment discrimination - Not allowing reasonable absence from work for the purpose of gender-reassignment in line with normal provision such as sick leave).

- Pregnancy/maternity related discrimination - Unfavourable treatment because of pregnancy or maternity. It includes unfavourable treatment of a woman or girl because she is breastfeeding.
- Discrimination by association or perception - For example, discriminating against someone because they “look gay”, or because they have a gay brother; discriminating against someone because they care for a disabled relative. Schools are allowed to treat disabled pupils more favourably than non-disabled pupils, and in some cases are required to do so, by making reasonable adjustments to put them on a more level footing with pupils without disabilities. Public Sector Duties (applies to schools) A school must, in the exercise of its functions, give due regard to the need to (in relation to protected characteristics above):
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct.
 - Advance equality of opportunity (remove or minimise disadvantage; meet people’s needs; take account of disabilities; encourage participation in public life).
 - Foster good relations between people (tackle prejudice and promote understanding).
 - In practice, ‘due regard’ means giving relevant and proportionate consideration to the duty, so decision makers in schools must have due regard when making a decision, developing a policy or taking an action as to whether it may have implications for people because of their protected characteristics.

Reasonable Adjustments and Accessibility Plans Schools are required to:

Take reasonable steps to avoid disadvantage caused by a provision, criteria or practice or a physical feature that puts a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage compared to a nondisabled person.

- This involves removing or avoiding a physical feature, for example:
- Steps and lifts. Take reasonable steps to provide auxiliary aids/services.
- Provide information in an accessible format.
- Develop and implement (by allocating appropriate resources) an Accessibility Plan

to:

- Increase disabled pupils’ access to the school curriculum
- Improve the physical environment ● Improve provision of information.

The duty is an anticipatory and continuing one that schools owe to disabled pupils generally, regardless of whether the school knows that a particular pupil is disabled or whether the school currently has disabled pupils. The school will need to plan ahead for the reasonable adjustments that it may need to make, working with the relevant admissions authority as appropriate.