



Equality & Cohesion Policy

In this policy any reference to Halton School includes Halton Pre-School

Adopted by Full Governing Body

Autumn 2021

Date of Next Review

Autumn 2024

School vision and aims

This Policy builds on our Halton Community Combined School's core values and ethos.

We want time at Halton School to be a memorable part of each child's learning journey and to give them the confidence and self-belief to move on to the next stage of their education with their heads held high.

School vision statement

We work together to ensure that Halton is a school where:

- Pupils are taken in just as they are and given opportunities to develop physically, emotionally and spiritually
- Pupils are nurtured and empowered to enable them to become self-assured and resilient learners
- Pupils are offered a wide ranging and creative curriculum to instil a love of learning and support future aspirations
- Respect for others is shown through good manners, an understanding of the school's values and a warm welcome
- Learning is fun, effort is rewarded and achievements are celebrated

'Enjoying Our Learning Journey'

Through:

- Providing a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum
- Recognising individual strengths and areas for development and setting high expectations for all pupils
- Providing challenging, experience-based learning and a range of extracurricular activities
- Providing a values-based education; showing and expecting consideration and respect for all
- Providing a safe, attractive, and stimulating environment so all can enjoy working and learning

The philosophy of our school talks of 'respect for others'. Within this caring ethos, we do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. We actively tackle discrimination against those with a disability, discrimination based on race, religion or belief/non-belief and sexual orientation. We promote equal opportunities and good relations between and amongst all. We aim to ensure that the school encourages the individuality of all our pupils, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender, religion, belief/non-belief or background. We are committed to ensuring that positive action is taken where necessary to redress a balance of inequality that may exist. Based on this, our school's admissions policy is equally open to pupils of all groups. Within the context of the school we aim to positively transform individual and shared perceptions, attitudes and relations. We aim to reflect the diversity of our local community and of wider society and to ensure that the education we offer reduces the chances of social divisions by recognising, celebrating and valuing different backgrounds, lifestyles and identities.

We believe that this policy should apply to our children and also to staff, governors, parents / carers and visitors.

What is Equality?

Equality is the principle of equal treatment for all people irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religious belief/ non-belief, sexual orientation, age, gender re assignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity status.

What is Diversity?

Diversity is the acceptance that we are all different but we are all equal. Diversity focuses on valuing and celebrating the strengths in people's differences.

What is Community Cohesion?

Community cohesion is to have common vision and civic pride, valued and celebrated diversity, clear rights and responsibilities, equal life chances for all and strong relations between different communities.

The Halton School ethos refers to valuing the individuality of our pupils. We are committed to giving all our pupils every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. Within this ethos of high expectations, we do not tolerate bullying and harassment of any kind. We actively tackle discrimination against those with a disability, racial discrimination including discrimination based on religion or belief / non-belief, sexual (orientation) harassment and discrimination, gender re-assignment, pregnancy or maternity, breastfeeding discrimination and promote equal opportunities and good relations between and amongst all. We aim to ensure that the school promotes the individuality of all our pupils, irrespective of ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, religion, belief / non-belief or background. We are committed to ensuring that positive action is taken where necessary to redress the balance of inequality that may exist. Based on this, our school's admissions policy is equally open to pupils of all groups.

Within the context of the school, we aim to positively transform individual and shared circumstances, perceptions, attitudes and relations. We aim to reflect the diversity of our local community and society and ensure that the education we offer reduces the chances of social divisions and parallel lives by recognising, celebrating and valuing different backgrounds, lifestyles and identities.

We believe that these commitments are as important in the context of a school with limited ethnic diversity as in a school with a diverse population whatever that diversity may be.

This policy applies to staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, visitors, and all members of the school community.

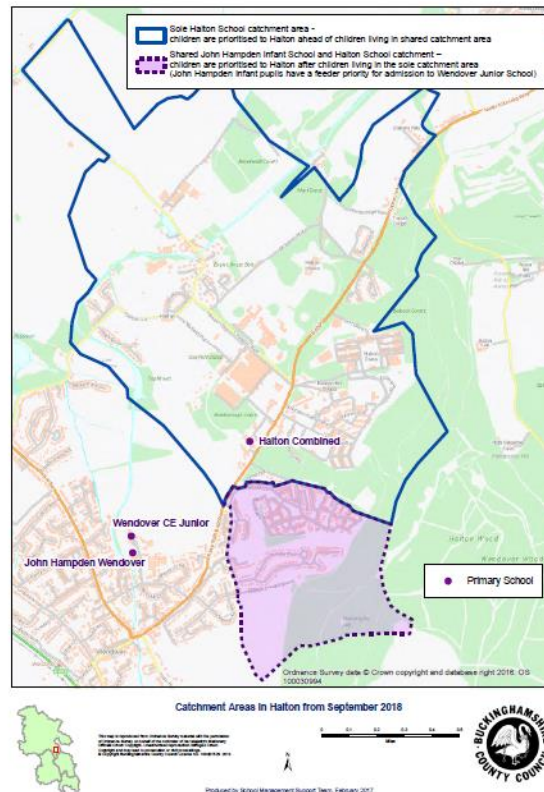
Current profile of Halton Community Combined School

CONTEXTUAL DATA 21/22	Sch	Bucks	Diff*
Number on Roll	213	45723	N/A
% Free School Meals	6.1	8.8	-2.7
% First Lang. not English	8.0	18.0	-10
% Special Educ. Needs	17.5	12.0	5.5
% EHC Plan (prev. Statement)	2.9	2.0	0.9
% Minority Ethnic	21.3	34.7	-13.5
% Authorised Absence ¹	3.32	3.16	0.2
% Unauthorised Absence ¹	0.49	0.84	-0.4
% Permanent Exclusions ¹	0.00	0.02	N/A
% Fixed Exclusions ¹	0.90	1.44	N/A

KS1 Mobility Indicator: 80% KS2 Mobility Indicator: 77%

Halton Community Combined School is a single-form entry school with a cohort size of 30 pupils in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. There is a 24 place Pre-school; the Pre-school has a separate admission policy but falls under the remit of this policy.

There is one disabled toilet in the main school, an accessible pupil toilet in the Lower school and a disabled toilet in Pre-school. The Foundation Stage classroom is accessible and suitable ramps have been constructed at the school entrance and in the playground to allow easy access for walkers, wheelchairs and pushchairs. There is a lift in the dining room which facilitates full access. The school has a short flight of six steps to the IT suite, this is accessible via the Bursars' office and the outside ramp allows for access around the school. The grounds are well developed for effective outdoor learning. There is a well-established Breakfast and After School Club.



School catchment area:

Parents may still apply to Halton Community Combined School even if they do not live within the catchment area. Parental preference is taken into account when allocating places. We are the only School in Halton village and the nearest school to RAF Halton; we have a good cross-section of the local community represented in our parent body.

Development of the Policy & Action Plan

The Head Teacher and the Equalities, Diversity and Cohesion Governor attended initial training and the Governor has also attended additional training as part of the 'School Governance and Diversity Conference'. Both have taken responsibility for developing the policy. Annual questionnaires are issued in order to receive feedback from our stakeholders and there is a termly parent forum where both school leaders and parents can shape the agenda.

The policy is shared with staff, governors and parents/carers so that they can guide us in the development of our Action Plan.

The scheme and associated objectives are published on the school website and communicated to all stakeholders in order to comply with the Equality Duty.

Responsibility for the Scheme:

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

The school complies with all equalities legislation relevant to the school community;
The school's Equalities and Cohesion scheme is maintained and updated regularly;

That procedures and strategies related to the scheme are implemented;

The named Race Equality Governor (Rick Avory) will monitor, on behalf of the governing board, all the equalities duties placed on the school.

Positive Action

The Governing Board recognises that the avoidance of discrimination is not sufficient to ensure that equality exists in the school. The Governing Body will therefore give full consideration to measures of positive action which may assist in achieving the aims of this policy. This is action designed to encourage or facilitate the employment or training of minority or disadvantaged groups. The Governing Board will not discriminate in favour of individuals from specific groups (positive discrimination), but it will take positive action which enables members of those groups to compete on an equal basis. Positive action measures may include:

- encouraging applications from specific groups which are under-represented in the school
- encouraging people with disabilities to apply for posts
- advertisements which encourage applications from individuals of a particular sexual orientation, or religion or belief, but make it clear that selection will be on merit
- flexible working – promoting the use of job shares and flexible working where operational factors make this possible
- language/literacy training
- supporting training measure for under-represented groups
- assistance with applications for candidates with language problems
- provision of childcare facilities or support with the costs of childcare facilities for staff
- exploring the possibility of career breaks for women to assist with family commitments
- commitments to interviewing disabled people who meet the basic criteria for the post
- encouraging staff to become representatives of trade unions/associations

The Headteacher and Leadership team are responsible for:

- Along with the Governing Board, providing leadership and vision in respect of equality and diversity
- Overseeing the implementation of the Equalities and Cohesion Policy and associated Action Plans and objectives
- Co-ordinating the activities related to equality and diversity
- Ensuring that all who enter the school are aware of, and comply with, the Equalities and Cohesion 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 and sexual harassment or discrimination against any persons because of their age, sexuality or religion, belief / non-belief
- Supporting parents to become involved in their children's education
- Considering and overcoming barriers to parents' involvement (i.e. work commitments, non-resident parents, lone parents, those with Armed Forces commitments)

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 receiving information in staff meetings

All Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Supporting their children's education
- Supporting the school in its duty to comply with the Equalities and Cohesion Scheme
- Positively influencing their children's expectations about education as well as their attitudes and behaviour towards other pupils, staff and school leaders including the Governors
- Understanding the ethos of the school and becoming involved in school life (e.g. school events and open days, extended services, feedback opportunities, informal discussions with staff, consultation evenings, curriculum opportunities)

All Pupils are responsible for:

- Actively participating in activities which fulfil the school's duty to comply with the Equalities and Cohesion Scheme
- Not discriminating on grounds of race sexual orientation, religion, belief or non-belief, gender; or other equality issues
- Reporting any racist incident or act of discrimination in which they were directly or indirectly involved either in or out of school
- Understanding, valuing and celebrating diversity
- Challenging stereotypes, and prejudices
- Treating others with respect, as their equal

Harassment and grievance procedures

Harassment has the effect of destroying dignity and undermining the confidence of employees. It can take many forms including physical contact, bullying, threatening or ignoring someone. It can be a series of offensive remarks or a single incident. It can be behaviour that staff find offensive even if not directed at them or harassment because of perception or association.

The Governing Board is committed to the principles of dignity at work for all staff in the school. This includes the right to be treated with respect by all managers and colleagues. The Governing Board will consider any acts of harassment including those on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital status and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, as totally unacceptable and outside the ethos and culture of the school. Any such act by a member of staff against any adult or child will be treated as a disciplinary offence, and action taken accordingly.

The school has procedures to resolve grievances and for the handling of complaints of harassment and bullying at work. The Governing Board is committed to investigate any such complaint. These procedures will be followed carefully and promptly in response to any such complaint. The first point of contact for any such complaint should be Chair of Governors, Natasha How. In addition, staff have the right to approach their professional association or trade union representative for support.

Eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and celebrating diversity

Learning and Teaching

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

- Ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect diversity within society in terms of age, race, gender, ability, faith, ethnicity, social condition, cultural background and sexual orientation, without stereotyping
- Develop learning materials and activities that emphasise benefits of having diverse communities, neighbourhoods, schools and groups
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour
- Use a range of sensitive teaching strategies when teaching about different cultural traditions
- Develop pupils' awareness so that they can detect bias and challenge discrimination
- Ensure that the PSHE and Citizenship curricula cover issues of equalities, diversity, human rights and inclusion
- Promote and celebrate the contribution of different ethnic groups to the subject matter in all subjects, where appropriate
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education
- Provide educational visits and extra-curricular activities that reflect all pupil groupings;
- Take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all groups of pupils;
- Increase achievement of all pupils in English, Maths, Science and Computing across all stages;
- Reduce direct, indirect and institutional discrimination;
- Reduce group segregation, disproportion and under/over representation
- Foster social bonding (intra-group relations) and social bridging (inter-group relations) among pupils, workers, staff, parents, carers and families
- Emphasise interconnectedness and interdependence of society members at local, regional, national and global levels
- Facilitate balance between leadership and teamwork among pupils, staff, teachers and govern
- Challenge negative stereotypes and prejudices about leadership/membership to certain group relation to specific persons and groups;
- Challenge assumptions and expectations about specific lifestyles or identities of certain persons and groups.

I. Personal development and pastoral guidance

- All staff take account of disability needs, gender, religious and ethnic differences and the experience and needs of particular groups such as Gypsy Roma and Traveller, refugee and asylum seeker pupils.
- Remove unlawful distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences that have the purpose

or effect of limiting equal access to goods, facilities and services.

- All pupils/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 pupils can see themselves reflected in the school community.
- All pupils develop communication, delegation, motivation and supervision skills, particularly those who come from vulnerable, excluded or deprived backgrounds.

II. Curriculum

Each area of the curriculum is planned to incorporate the principles of equality and to promote positive attitudes towards equality and diversity

- Pupils will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality.
- All steps are taken to ensure that all pupils have access to mainstream curriculum by taking into account the cultural and lifestyle backgrounds of all pupils, their linguistic needs and their learning styles.
- Provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to have meaningful and continuous interaction with people from different backgrounds, lifestyles and identities.
- Provide opportunities to recognise similarities while appreciating, respecting and valuing Differences across and between groups.
- Pupils will have opportunities to develop an understanding of perceptions among majority groups about special treatment of minority groups.
- Pupils will have opportunities to develop an understanding of cultural, geographical or generational boundaries of the 'community'.
- Pupils will have opportunities to utilise food, arts, sports and PE as a means to foster participation
- Foster social bonding (intra-group relations) and social bridging (inter-group relations) among pupils, workers, staff, parents, carers and families.
- Facilitate meaningful and continuous interaction between people from all walks of life.
- Increase awareness about rights and responsibilities of pupils, their parents and carers as community members, regardless of migratory status and/or nationality.
- Remove barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement.
- Emphasise multiple dimensions of equality (opportunities, access, treatment, participation and outcome).

III. Staff recruitment and professional development

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- 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 good equality practice throughout 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 induction.
- All supply staff are made aware of equalities policies and practices.
- Training is facilitated for staff, teachers, governors and head teachers on community cohesion.

IV. Partnerships with parents/carers and communities

- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school
- We will, as a school, establish and strengthen partnerships with other schools to share good practice, exchange information and foster multi-cultural, multi-geographical and multi-generational activities
- Members of the local community will be invited to join in with school activities including productions, focus weeks, assemblies and PTA fund raising events
- The school establishes links with community groups and organisations to increase the range of activities and services offered e.g. during 'Healthy' week.
- The school fosters positive relationships between and within groups of pupils, workers, staff, parents, carers and families
- The school facilitates meaningful and continuous interaction between and within members of different groups
- The school will regularly review the effectiveness of approaches to monitoring, evaluating, managing and preventing conflict
 - We will, as a school, establish and strengthen partnerships with other schools to share good practice, exchange information and foster multi-cultural, multi-geographical and multi-generational activities.
 - Establish links with community groups and organisations to share good practice and grassroots knowledge.
 - Establish and strengthen effective approaches to monitor, evaluate, manage and prevent conflict.

1. Putting Policy/ Scheme into Practice

Our policy includes a short action plan to be reviewed annually (see Appendix B)

2. Monitoring and Reviewing

We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies. When policies are reviewed governors will ensure that due regard is given to the promotion of all aspects of equality within each policy.

We regularly review the impact of our policies on the needs, entitlements and outcomes for pupils, staff and parents from the equality strands referred to in this policy. We pay specific attention to the impact that our policies have on the attainment of pupils from different groups.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupils'

progress, as they move through the school. As part of this process, we regularly monitor the performance of different groups, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress. We use this information to adjust future teaching and learning plans, as necessary. Resources are made available to support groups of pupils where the information suggests that progress is not as good as it should be. The governing body receives regular updates on pupil performance information.

School performance information is compared to national data and Local Authority data, to ensure that pupils are making appropriate progress when compared to all schools, and to schools in similar circumstances.

As well as monitoring pupil performance information, we also regularly monitor a range of other information. This relates to:

- Behaviour
- Exclusions;
- Incidents of racism, sexual harassment and all forms of bullying;

Our monitoring activities enable us to identify any differences in pupil performance. This allows us to take appropriate action to meet the needs of specific groups and to set targets in our strategic plan, in order to make the necessary improvements.

3. Impact Assessments and how this policy/scheme relates to other school policies

We ensure that the commitments embodied in our mission statement for equality apply to the full range of our policies and practices, especially those concerned with:

- Equal opportunities
- Pupils' progress attainment and assessment
- Behaviour discipline and exclusions
- Pupils' personal development and pastoral care
- Teaching and learning
- Induction
- Admissions and attendance
- The curriculum
- Teaching and learning
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Governor /staff training and professional development
- Partnerships with parents/carers and communities
- Visits and visitors

Each policy, and any other relevant policies as outlined in the specific duties placed upon us by the relevant legislation, will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school.



Halton School

EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2021-2024

Objective	Actions	Who?	By when?	What will the impact be?
To extend our pupils' understanding of cultural diversity and tolerance of differences in cultures and religious beliefs.	Engage pupils in positive experiences of different cultures, traditions and languages through curriculum opportunities (such as RE and PSHE), assemblies and focused work on values.	All staff, pupils P Bates (Curriculum Lead, PSHE lead) J Dawkins (RE lead)	Review end of academic year 2023/24	Pupils demonstrate understanding and display mutual acceptance of difference.
To ensure equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community	Regularly review access arrangements and monitor equity of opportunities for all pupils	HT and governors	Review end of academic year 2023/24	Absence of evidence of demonstrating barriers to access or opportunity. The accessibility plan will be reviewed and published annually; the annual SEN report will be available on the school website.
To ensure that all parents are happy to come to school to take part in school events, celebrate achievements and to raise any concerns about their child or the way they are treated as a member of the school community, without feeling they are being discriminated against in any way.	Maintain open access policy for all parents, promote the use of parent surveys, parent forum meetings and pupil voice	HT, Parent Forum, School Council	Review end of academic year 2023/24	Positive feedback from parents and other groups. Absence of issues arising or evidence of satisfactory resolution.
To ensure that all pupils new to the school experience a successful transition, are happy and settle quickly to learning.	Liaison between staff, parents feeder pre-schools / schools and pupils.	HT, Family Support Coordinator, staff, parents	Review end of academic year 2023/24	Smooth transition and integration into Halton School for all pupils.

Appendix A

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation from 1st October 2010.

It streamlines all the various legislation into a single requirement.

The Act prohibits schools from discriminating against, harassing or victimising:

- prospective pupils
- pupils at the school
- in some circumstances former pupils
- Schools also have obligations as employers, bodies which carry out public functions and service providers.

What the law protects against

These are the main forms of prohibited conduct.

Discrimination

This includes:

- Treating a person worse than someone else because of a protected characteristic (known as **direct discrimination**). Although in the case of pregnancy and maternity direct discrimination, this can occur if they have protected characteristic without needing to compare treatment to someone else. It is not possible to justify direct discrimination, so it will always be unlawful.
- Putting in place a rule or way of doing things that has a worse impact on someone with a protected characteristic than someone without one, when this cannot be objectively justified (known as **indirect discrimination**). Indirect discrimination will occur if the following four conditions are met:
 - You apply (or would apply) the provision, criterion or practice equally to all relevant pupils, including a particular pupil with a protected characteristic, and
 - The provision, criterion or practice puts or would put pupils sharing a protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage compared to relevant pupils who do not share that characteristic, and
 - The provision, criteria, practice or rule puts or would put the particular pupil at that disadvantage, and
 - You cannot show that the provision, criteria of practice is justified as a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'.
- Treating a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability when this cannot be justified (**known as discrimination arising from disability**). Discrimination arising from disability occurs when you treat a disabled pupil unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and cannot justify such treatment. Discrimination arising from disability is different

from direct discrimination. Direct discrimination occurs because of the protected characteristic of disability. For discrimination arising from disability, the motive for the treatment does not matter; the question is whether the disabled pupil has been treated unfavourably because of something connected with their disability.

Discrimination arising from disability is also different from indirect discrimination. There is no need to show that other people have been affected alongside the individual disabled pupil or for the disabled pupil to compare themselves with anyone else. Discrimination arising from disability will occur if the following three conditions are met:

- you treat a disabled pupil unfavourably, that is putting them at a disadvantage, even if this was not your intention, and
 - this treatment is because of something connected with the disabled pupil's disability, and
 - you cannot justify the treatment by showing that it is 'a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'.
- **Failing to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people.**
- The reasonable adjustments duty was first introduced under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The reasonable adjustments duty under the Equality Act operates slightly differently and has been extended to cover the provision by a school of auxiliary aids and services; however, this element of the duty will not come into force until a later date yet to be confirmed. The object of the duty is the same: to avoid as far as possible by reasonable means, the disadvantage which a disabled pupil experiences because of their disability.
 - In some cases, the support a disabled pupil may receive under the special educational needs framework may mean that they do not suffer a substantial disadvantage and there is no need for additional reasonable adjustments to be made for them. In other cases, disabled pupils may require reasonable adjustments in addition to the special educational provision they are receiving. There are also disabled pupils who do not have special educational needs but still require reasonable adjustments to be made for them.

Harassment

- Unwanted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity or which is hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive to someone with a protected characteristic or in a way that is sexual in nature.

Victimisation

- Treating someone unfavourably because they have taken (or might be taking) action under the Equality Act or supporting somebody who is doing so. These are called 'protected acts'.

A 'protected act' is:

- Making a claim or complaint of discrimination (under the Act).
- Helping someone else to make a claim by giving evidence or information.
- Making an allegation that the school or someone else has breached the Act.
- Doing anything else in connection with the Act.

There is also protection for pupils who are victimised because their parent or sibling has carried out a protected act.

As well as these characteristics, the law also protects people from being discriminated against:

- By someone who wrongly perceives them to have one of the protected characteristics.
- Because they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic. This includes the parent of a disabled child or adult or someone else who is caring for a disabled person.

New positive action provisions

Pupils with protected characteristics may be disadvantaged for social or economic reasons or for reasons to do with past or present discrimination. The Act contains provisions which enable schools to take action to tackle the particular disadvantage, different needs or disproportionately low participation of a particular pupil group, provided certain conditions are met.

These are known as the positive action provisions and allow (but do not require) schools to take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils. Such action could include targeted provision, resources or putting in place additional or bespoke provision to benefit a particular disadvantaged pupil group.

Positive action is intended to be a measure that will allow schools to provide additional benefits to some pupils to address disadvantage and is not the same as positive discrimination. Positive discrimination would be providing preferential treatment for a particular disadvantaged pupil group that exceeded the positive action conditions.

It is never unlawful to treat disabled pupils (or applicants) more favourably than non-disabled pupils (or applicants). That is, a school is permitted to positively discriminate in favour of disabled pupils (applicants).

Why we need to address race equality issues:

Legal Requirements:

- *The Equality Act 2010 outlines that all public authorities including schools have a statutory duty to:*
Eliminate racial discrimination;

Promote equality of opportunity;

Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

The specific duties require us to:

- *Prepare a written policy on racial equality;*
- *Assess the impact of our policies, including this policy, on pupils, staff and parents of different racial groups including, in particular, the impact on attainment levels of these pupils;*
- *Monitor the operation of our policies through the impact they have on such pupils, staff and parents, with particular reference to their impact on the attainment levels of such pupils.*

Why we need to address gender issues:

Legal requirements:

The Equality Act 2010 states that it is unlawful to treat a person less favourably than another is treated in similar circumstances on the grounds of sex:

- *Apply a condition which discriminated against a man or a woman because they are less able to comply with it than a member of the opposite sex is and;*
- *Discriminate against somebody because they are married.*

The Equality Act 2010 requires that men and women should be paid equally where they are carrying out:

- *The same job*
- *Work of equal value*
- *Work related as equivalent under the job evaluation scheme.*

The Equality Act 2010 permits employers to act positively in favour of a particular gender by:

- *Offering access to training to employers and/or non-employees to help fit them to particular work in the organisation in which their gender group has been identified as under-represented and;*
- *Encouraging employees and/or non-employees to take up opportunities for work.*

The Equality Act 2006 purpose was to create a public duty to promote equality of opportunity between men and women and to prohibit sex discrimination.

The specific duties:

- *Consider the need to include objectives to address the causes of any gender pay gap.*
- *Gather and use information.*
- *Consult stakeholders and take account of relevant information.*
- *Assess the impact of its current and proposed policies and practices.*
- *Implement the actions set out in its scheme.*
- *Monitor, evaluate and report.*

Discrimination because of pregnancy and maternity

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

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, as is more likely for school pupils, it may simply include choosing to dress in a different way as part of the personal process of change.

A person will be protected because of gender reassignment where they:

- make their intention known to someone – it does not matter who this is, whether it is someone at school or at home or someone like a doctor:
 - once they have proposed to undergo gender reassignment they are protected, even if they take no further steps or they decide to stop later on
 - they do not have to have reached an irrevocable decision that they will undergo gender reassignment, but as soon as there is a manifestation of this intention they are protected
- start or continue to dress, behave or live (full-time or part-time) according to the gender they identify with as a person
- undergo treatment related to gender reassignment, such as surgery or hormone therapy, or
- have received gender recognition under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

It does not matter which of these applies to a person for them to be protected because of the characteristic of gender reassignment.

This guidance uses the term 'transsexual person' to refer to someone who has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

Why we need to address disability issues:

The Equality Act 2010 outlines that 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.

In relation to physical impairment:

- 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 other tests to apply to decide if someone has the protected characteristic of disability are:
- The length the effect of the condition has lasted or will continue: it must be long term. 'Long term' means that an impairment is likely to last for the rest of the person's life, or has lasted at least 12 months or where the total period for which it lasts is likely to be at least 12 months. If the person no longer has the condition but it is likely to recur or if the person no longer has the condition, they will be considered to be a disabled person.
- Whether the effect of the impairment is to make it more difficult and/or time-consuming for a person to carry out an activity compared to someone who does not have the impairment, and this causes more than minor or trivial inconvenience.
- If the activities that are made more difficult are 'normal day-to-day activities' at work or at home.
- Whether the condition has this impact without taking into account the effect of any medication the person is taking or any aids or assistance or adaptations they have, like a wheelchair, walking stick, assistance dog or special software on their computer. The exception to this is the wearing of glasses or contact lenses where it is the effect while the person is wearing the glasses or contact lenses, which is taken into account.

The Duty:

- *The Equality Act 2010 places a general duty on schools, who need to have due regard for the following when carrying out their functions:*
- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- Eliminating discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA;
- Eliminating harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Why we need to address sexual orientation issues:

Legal requirements:

- *The Equality Act 2010, covers discrimination, harassment and victimisation in work and vocational training. They make it unlawful to deny people jobs because of prejudice about their sexual orientation. They enable individuals to take prompt and effective action to tackle harassment, and enable people to have an equal chance of training and promotion, whatever their sexual orientation or the sexual orientation of those with whom a person is associated or related.*
- *The Equality Act 2006 included an order making power that allows Regulations to be made to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of all goods, facilities and services in education and in the execution of public functions. These Regulations entered into force on the 30th of April 2007.*

Sexual orientation means an individual's sexual orientation towards:

- people of the same sex as him or her (gay or lesbian);
- people of the opposite sex (heterosexual);
- people of both sexes (bisexual)

It does not include transsexuality which is related to gender and is covered in the employment context by sex discrimination legislation.

The Regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's:

- Actual sexual orientation;
- Perceived sexual orientation by him or her;
- Sexual orientation of someone with whom he/she is associated.

Discrimination is defined as:

- Direct discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation happens when a person is treated less favourably than another person is, or would be, treated in the same circumstances, and that treatment is because of their sexual orientation, perceived sexual, or that of a person with whom he or she is associated- such as a parent.
- Indirect discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation happens where a provision, criterion or practice is applied to everyone, but it has the effect of putting a person of a particular sexual orientation at a disadvantage- and it cannot be reasonably justified by reference to considerations other than sexual orientation.
- Victimising someone by treating them less favourably because of anything they have done or intend to do in relation to these regulations such as making a complaint or giving evidence for a complainant, is also unlawful discrimination.

The specific duties require us not to unlawfully discriminate against a person:

- *In the terms on which it offers to admit him or her as a pupil*
- *By refusing to accept an application to admit him or her as a pupil*
- *In the way in which a pupil is afforded access to any benefit, facility or service*
- *By refusing access to any, benefit, facility or service*
- *By excluding him or her*
- *By subjecting him or her to any other detriment*

Why we need to address Religious belief / non-belief issues:

Legal requirements:

- *The Equality Act 2010 outlines discrimination on grounds of religion, religious belief or similar philosophical belief. They cover direct or indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation in work and vocational training on grounds of perceived as well as actual religion or belief (i.e. assuming - correctly or incorrectly - that someone has a particular religion or belief). It is illegal to discriminate against any one because of their religion or faith when providing goods or services.*
- Exceptions may be made in very limited circumstances if there is a genuine occupational requirement for the worker to be of a particular religion or belief in order to do the job or to comply with the religious or belief ethos of the organisation
- Religion or belief is defined as being any religion, religious belief or similar philosophical belief. This does not include any philosophical or political belief unless it is similar to religious belief. It will be for the Employment Tribunals and other Courts to decide whether particular circumstances are covered by the law

For example, it is unlawful to:

- Decide not to employ someone
- Dismiss them
- Refuse to provide them with training
- Deny them promotion
- Give them adverse terms and conditions

because they follow, or do not follow, a particular religion or belief

Why we need to address age issues:

Legal requirements:

- *The Equality Act 2010 prevents unjustified age discrimination in employment and vocational training. It protects against discrimination that is directly against anyone:*
 - That is, to treat them less favourably than others because of their age – unless objectively justified
 - Discriminate indirectly against anyone – that is, to apply a criterion, provision or practice which disadvantages people of a particular age unless it can be objectively justified
 - Subject someone to harassment. Harassment is unwanted conduct that violates a person's dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them having regard to all the circumstances including the perception of the victim
 - Victimise someone because they have made or intend to make a complaint or allegation or have given or intend to give evidence in relation to a complaint of discrimination on grounds of age

Why we need to address Community Cohesion issues:

Legal Requirements:

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 establishes general duties of governing bodies:

Section 38 states that governing bodies should conduct the school with regard to four new duties one of which is the duty to “promote community cohesion”.

Section 154 states the duty to report to OFSTED on the contribution of certain schools to community cohesion.

Section 33 about requirements to foundation school contains a subsection 96) which establishes an explicit requirement that a foundation school should “promote community cohesion”. This seems to be linked to the Government’s desire “to promote ethnic, religious, and cultural tolerance and respect between different groups of people living together.” Therefore, trusts will need to demonstrate that they are committed to providing “opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn from each other and encourage an understanding of, and respect for, other cultures and faiths and by activities in the community, which help build bridges between different ethnic groups.” This duty also implies assessing if certain activities would constitute an obstacle to meeting this requirement.

Schools play a fundamental role in decreasing deprivation and exclusion, in valuing and celebrating ethnic diversity, raising achievement and attainment, preventing and managing bullying, anti-social behaviour and discrimination incidents.

Beyond statutory requirements for schools to promote community cohesion, it is important that these policies are developed in a context-wise, evidence-based and problem-solving manner. Likewise, it is useful to acknowledge that the school’s efforts to promote community cohesion will be more significant if the duty is mainstreamed across all areas such as curriculum, teaching and learning, equity and excellence, engagement and extended services.

Appendix B

List of resources used or referred to in this document:

Guidance for Education Providers: Schools

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/guidance-for-education-providers-schools/>

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation Regulations 2003

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031661.htm>

Guidance on New Measures to Outlaw Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in the Provision of Goods, Facilities and Services

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/doc/485013.doc>

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007, Guidance for Schools

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12504>

For detailed guidance on:

- Admissions, teaching and the curriculum
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sacode/>
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/>
- Handling sex and relationship education
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sreguidance>
- Impact of Part 2 of the Equality Act 2007 (discrimination on grounds of religion or belief)
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/equality/religion>
- Anti-discrimination legislation
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sexualhealthandorientation/homophobia/legislation>
- Tackling homophobic bullying
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachers/issue33/secondary/features/TacklinghomophobiaSecondary>
- Code of Practices for Disability, Gender and Race