

Equality information and objectives

North Ridge High Specialist Support 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 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
- › 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
- › 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

The designated member of staff for equality will (Business Director):

- 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 [September/insert other]. (You may wish to include information about the type of Equality Act training and refresher training offered to staff)

A report is provided to the finance personnel committee annually regarding Equality Act issues

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 (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:

- 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

Objective 1

Continue to improve pupil and staff well being – through mindfulness and healthy living. Why we have chosen this objective:

- To support members of our school community that require support around their mental health

To achieve this objective we plan to:

- Offer art therapy to a key group of pupils
- Provide counselling for staff requiring this
- Provide a staff welfare programme

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- We have supported some colleagues and feedback has been positive
- The pupils who have received art therapy have benefitted and we have agreed to continue this into 2022/23

Objective 2

Improve pupils and staff understanding of sexuality.

Why we have chosen this objective:

To ensure that we understand our responsibilities as a school and to educate our school community

To achieve this objective we plan to:

Staff training from the Proud trust

As part of the RSE programme education for pupils

Progress we are making towards this objective:

This has not progressed as quickly as other aspects of our work

Future plans include:

- Head Teacher attending diversity and Equality training
- Workshops for some pupils
- Individual work with other pupils where appropriate

Objective 3

Work towards the NAS award -

Why we have chosen this objective:

- Increase staff, parents and pupils' knowledge and expertise in working with pupils with ASC

To achieve this objective we plan to:

- We have a 2 year development plan and are working with the NAS
- Staff training provided for staff

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- Completion of year 1 all planned tasks achieved- school is preparing for assessment in year 2

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9. Monitoring arrangements

The Governing Board will update the equality information we publish, [described in sections 4 to 7 above], at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by at least every 2 years.

This document will be approved by policy committee

10. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Risk assessment
- Behaviour policy
- Recruitment policy
- Safeguarding policy