



**HIGHER
WALTON**

**C.E. PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**SINGLE
EQUALITIES
POLICY**

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SINGLE EQUALITIES POLICY

Mission Statement

Higher Walton CE Primary School aims to “raising standards within a caring and supportive environment based upon the Christian ethos” and our school core values¹, based upon Christian values, are relevant for members of all faith communities or of no belief.

Introduction

This Single Equalities Policy builds upon our Mission Statement, core values and ethos, and outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of Higher Walton CE Primary School to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school this means not simply treating everybody the same but understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of pupils in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Parents/carers
- The governing body
- Visitors to school
- Students on placement

Statement of Principles

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

At Higher Walton CE Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

School Context

Higher Walton CE Primary School is a small primary school serving the local village and nearby communities with a mixed social catchment area. The school currently comprises 97 children of whom 54% are male and 46% female. The vast majority of current pupils are of white British background, with 12% from other ethnic backgrounds. No pupils are at an early stage of learning English, and 99% have English as a first language. The proportion of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding is 20% which is below national average. 3% are children in care, which is higher than national average. A small number of children come from other faith backgrounds. The school has 22% SEND pupils, which is higher than national average. The school has an accessibility plan, and the building is fully accessible to disabled pupils, staff and visitors. The school staff is 100% white British background, and 95% female.

Ethos and Atmosphere

Our school has a warm and welcoming family atmosphere, frequently commented on by visitors. All staff, pupils and governors are expected to uphold this ethos.

- At Higher Walton CE Primary School, school leaders will promote and demonstrate trust and respect between all members of the school community
- An open atmosphere promotes good interpersonal and community relationships
- All within the school community challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour, eg through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions
- Staffroom / classroom discussion of issues reflect on stereotypes, expectations and impact on learning

¹ Friendship, Forgiveness, Creativity, Courage, Respect, Responsibility, Trust and Tenacity

- All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness, respect and dignity
- Displays around the school are high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored
- Provision is made to cater for spiritual needs of all children through planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities. Our most recent SIAMS inspection (October 2014) graded the school as “outstanding”.

Policy development

This policy has been drawn up through consultation with staff, pupils and governors and is informed by earlier policies including Equal Opportunities, Race Equality, Gender Equality, and the Disability Equality Scheme.

Monitoring and Review

Higher Walton CE Primary is an inclusive school, working towards greater equality in the whole school community. We use the curriculum and teaching to enhance self-esteem and to provide a learning environment in which each individual is encouraged to fulfil her or his potential.

We collect a range of equality information for our pupils/students including:

- Census returns
- Attainment / progress data
- Racist incidents
- External data eg LSIP, Raiseonline
- Attendance data
- Behaviour records

and ensure this is considered in the light of ethnicity, disability, gender and recipients of Pupil Premium².

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 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:

- Attendance (authorised, unauthorised and persistent absence)
- Exclusions and truancy
- Racism, disability discrimination, sexism, homophobia and all forms of bullying
- Parental involvement
- Participation in extra-curricular activities and school visits

Our monitoring activities enable us to identify any differences in pupil performance and provide specific support as required, including pastoral support. This allows us to take appropriate action to meet the needs of specific groups in order to make necessary improvements.

The School is also committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation. We aim to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and establish a governing body that is representative of our community.

We collect and analyse a range of profile information for our staff and governors including applications for vacant posts, staff and governor profiles, staff appraisals, sickness absence.³

^{2,3} Monitoring will identify and respond to any trends and patterns, whilst being mindful of confidentiality and the need to protect the identity of individual pupils in small cohorts.

Due regard is given to the promotion of equality in the School Improvement Plan. The person responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan is Mrs J Noblet (Deputy Head)

Her role is to:

- Lead discussions, organise training, update staff in staff meetings, support discussions
- Work with the governing body on matters relating to equality
- Support evaluation activities that moderate the impact and success of this policy

Developing Best Practice

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:

- Provide equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping
- Use materials to promote a positive image of and attitude towards disability and disabled people
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and religions and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Use a range of sensitive teaching strategies when teaching about different cultural and religious traditions
- Develop pupils advocacy skills so that they can detect bias, challenge discrimination, leading to justice and equality
- Ensure that the whole curriculum covers issues of equality and diversity;
- All subject policies promote and celebrate the contribution of different cultures to the subject
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education
- Provide educational visits and extended learning opportunities that involve all pupil groups
- 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
- Identify resources and training that support staff development

Learning Environment

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination. All pupils 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.

- Teacher enthusiasm is a vital factor in achieving a high level of motivation and good results from all pupils
- Adults in school will provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity
- The school places a very high priority on provision for special educational needs and disability.
- We will meet all pupils' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered programmes of work
- The school provides a learning environment in which all pupils can contribute fully and feel valued, and have equal access to all facilities and resources
- All pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning
- A range of teaching methods are used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils
- Consideration is given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage

Curriculum

At Higher Walton CE Primary School, everything we do reflects our Christian ethos that all individuals are precious and unique. We aim to ensure that:

- Our curriculum is balanced and broadly based
- Planning reflects our commitment to equality of access in all subjects and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality and diversity
- Pupils will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality
- Steps are taken to ensure that all pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum by taking into account their cultural backgrounds, linguistic needs and learning styles

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 sexually diverse society
- Reflect a variety of viewpoints
- Show positive images of males and females in society
- Include non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context
- Be accessible to all members of the school community

When ordering new resources and materials, staff consider how they show equality.

Language

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

- Does not transmit or confirm stereotypes
- Does not offend
- Creates and enhances positive images of particular groups identified at the beginning of this document
- Creates the conditions for all people to develop their self esteem
- Uses accurate language in referring to particular groups or individuals and challenges in instances where this is not the case

Extended Learning Opportunities

All children have access to age-appropriate extra-curricular activities and visits. We try to ensure that all people who support school activities (eg coaches, visiting speakers) adhere to these guidelines.

Provision for Bilingual Pupils

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

- Pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Pupils who are new to the United Kingdom
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children
- Advanced bi-lingual learners

Where pupils are at an early stage of learning English on admission, EMA is contacted for guidance and support.

Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance

- Staff take account of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination and the experience and needs of particular groups such as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, refugee and asylum seeker pupils
- All pupils 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, race or sexual orientation (whilst acknowledging that a disability may impose some practical boundaries to some career aspirations)
- All pupils/staff/parents/carers are given support, as appropriate, when they experience discrimination
- We recognise that perpetrators may also be victims and require support.
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of pupils 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.

Staffing and Staff Development

We recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff.

- This will include pupils' access to a balance of male and female staff where possible
- We encourage the career development and aspirations of all school staff
- It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of pupils
- Opportunities for professional development, career progression and promotion are free from unlawful discrimination

Staff Recruitment

- 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
- Equalities policies and practices are covered in all staff inductions
- All temporary staff are made aware of policies and practices
- Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact

Note:

Under the Equality Act 2010, in very limited circumstances, an employer can claim that a certain religious denomination or belief is considered to be a genuine occupational requirement of that role. An aided school may be able to rely on this for some roles in school, particularly those roles that provide spiritual leadership. However this would not apply for all staff in School.

In addition, there are also instances in which a job will qualify for a genuine occupational requirement on the grounds of gender. However, only in very few instances would this be permissible, for example, where the job is likely to involve physical contact with members of the opposite sex, where matters of decency or privacy are involved.

Partnerships with Parents/Carers/Families and the Wider Community

We will work with parents/carers to help all pupils to achieve their potential.

- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school.
- Members of the local community are encouraged to join in school activities
- We strive to ensure that membership of the Governing Body reflects the community it serves
- The school reaches out, where appropriate, into the local and wider community

Roles and Responsibilities

- Our governing body will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this policy and action plan
- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, and will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities
- The Deputy Head has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this policy, ensuring that staff are given necessary training and support and reporting progress to the governing body
- Our staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs and maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues
- All members of the school community have a responsibility to treat each other with respect, to feel valued, and to speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour
- We will take steps to ensure all visitors to the school adhere to our commitment to equality

Commissioning and procurement

Higher Walton CE Primary School will endeavour to ensure that we buy services from organisations that comply with equality legislation.

Measurement of Impact

This policy will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. An action plan will be published to enable an impact assessment to be undertaken at the appropriate time within a given timescale.

Publicising the policy

This policy is a public document available to any interested stakeholder. It will be publicised on our website.

Annual Review of Progress

We are legally required to report annually on our progress and performance in respect of the policy covering ethnicity, disability and gender and to report annually on progress to improve access for disabled pupils, including access to the curriculum, physical access and access to information.

Taking this single equality approach, we will incorporate all requirements into one annual report which meets the requirements of the new legislation and which will formulate the basis for the annual action plan.

In line with our legal requirements we will review our equalities information annually and evaluate the impact against our published objectives. Our objectives will be published at least once every 4 years.

Equality Impact Analysis

Undertaking equality impact analysis (EIAs) is similar to undertaking health and safety risk assessments. It involves predicting and assessing what the implications of a policy, function or strategy will be on a wide range of people. EIAs are a way in which we can analyse all of our work (this could be a policy, procedure, project, strategy or service) to ensure it meets the needs of all our service users and that no group (in relation to ethnicity, disability, gender, age, religion and belief, and sexual orientation) is disadvantaged or cannot access our services.

An EIA will be undertaken by the Governing Body as part of the policy review process.

The Single Equalities Policy is reviewed and agreed by the Governors' Pupil Welfare Committee. It was last reviewed and agreed on 10th May 2016

Appendix 1 – Definitions

RACE

The term race includes colour, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin and citizenship as well as race.

Reporting racist incidents in schools

Schools in Lancashire are required to have in place a procedure for dealing with and reporting racist incidents, which includes providing an annual summary of racist incidents to Lancashire County Council.

DISABILITY

What is a disability?

Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. That effect must be:

- substantial (more than minor or trivial)
- adverse
- long-term (it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year or for the rest of the life of the person affected).

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

Examples include hearing or sight impairments, a significant mobility difficulty, mental health conditions or learning difficulties. There are many other types of condition, illness or injury that can result in a person being *disabled* (eg diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart conditions, facial disfigurement).

GENDER

The term gender includes boys, girls, men and women, and transgender/transsexual people. Sexual orientation is a distinct protected characteristic. (The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender).

What is the difference between sex and gender?

- Sex refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.
- Gender is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women. While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be.

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexism is any prejudice and discrimination against individuals and groups who are lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) or are perceived to be so. It is based on the assumption that everyone is or should be heterosexual. Expressions of dislike, contempt or fear based on heterosexism are usually known as **homophobia**, although **lesophobia** and **biphobia** are also coming into use.

Whether through institutional practice or personal behaviour, the prevalence of heterosexism is likely to mean that LGB people feel excluded and unsafe. This effect can be mitigated by an actively welcoming and supportive environment.

Sexual orientation is defined as an individual's sexual orientation towards people of the same sex as her or him (gay or lesbian), people of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or people of both sexes (bisexual).

Transgenderism and gender re-assignment

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Gender reassignment is the process a transgender person goes through to change sex.

Appendix 2 – Relevant legislation and guidance

In April 2011 the general public sector duty came into force and in April 2012 schools had the specific duty to publish information and the specific duty to publish objectives.

The primary purpose of the legislation is to bring together existing equalities legislation. Primarily these are the Equal Pay Act of 1970, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act of 1976, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and three major statutory instruments of recent years protecting discrimination in employment on grounds of religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. It also builds on the 2006 Equality Act which instigated the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The 2010 Act imposes equality duties in respect of each of the equality strands (now called protected characteristics).

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Public authorities are also required to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status. The Equality Act has a single equality duty of positively combating inequality. It brings all existing provisions broadly into line with one another and extends beyond race, gender and disability to now include the characteristics of age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. The Act also identifies other characteristics such as marital status, pregnancy, having caring responsibilities or maternity. The definition of equality is therefore wider than it has been before. Additionally, requirements that in the past have been seen as good practice are now legally enforceable. For example, the law now requires that as part of their procurement processes, public bodies should prefer companies that it contracts with to have a positive record on equality matters.

There are also implications for the community cohesion agenda. The existing duty to promote good race relations has been replaced with a generic one to promote good relations. The Equality Act will require all public authorities to take the aspects of interaction, empowerment, personal security and attitudes to others into account. Community cohesion is in sympathy with most, if not all, of the requirements in the legislation and thus there should not be a radical departure in terms of delivery.

As part of Lancashire's continuing commitment to fostering community cohesion, we will work to narrow gaps in outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. This is in line with Lancashire County Council's priorities on closing the gaps (see 'Narrowing the Gaps: 2010 – 2013, Fairness for All' – Lancashire County Council).

The schools' provision of the act prohibits schools from discriminating against, harassing or victimising:

- Prospective pupils
- Pupils at school
- In some limited circumstances, former pupils

Note: Age and being married or in a civil partnership are not protected characteristics for the schools' provision.

Specific duties - Information and objectives

There are specific duties which schools have to undertake in relation to the Equality Act 2010:

- a) to publish information which shows they have due regard for equalities, as defined by the Act;
- b) to publish at least one equality objective.

The information and objectives have to be published by 6 April 2012 at the latest. In later years the information has to be updated annually and this annual updating is expected to include an indication of progress on achieving the objectives. Objectives have to be prepared and published every four years.

Two guiding principles:

An important principle underlying how schools respond to the specific duties is **proportionality**. This means that, for example, more information may be expected from a large secondary school than from a small primary, and more than one equality objective may be expected.

A second important principle is **flexibility**. This means that each individual school is permitted, and indeed expected, to interpret the legislation in ways which are appropriate to its own context, neighbourhood, history and circumstances.

Setting objectives:

Equality objectives have to be specific and measurable, and to be outcome-focused, as distinct from being focused primarily on making improvements in provision, crucially important though such improvements are. This means the vast majority of equality objectives are likely to be about the closing and narrowing of gaps in attainment and take-up, or else about fostering good relations.

Further, equality objectives have to be related to matters highlighted in the information which a school publishes to demonstrate compliance with the public sector equality duty (PSED)

The legal requirement is to publish at least one objective. A single objective might well be sufficient in a very small rural primary school.

Other things being equal, equality objectives should be part of, or aligned with, the school improvement plan.

Some examples of such objectives are cited below.

Narrowing the gaps

- *To narrow the gaps in English at KS3 and KS4 between girls and boys, and between pupils for whom English is an additional language and pupils for whom English is the first language.*
- *To narrow the gap in attendance rates between Gypsy Roma Traveller children and other children throughout the school.*
- *To narrow the gaps in mathematics and science between children of certain specific minority ethnic backgrounds and other children at key stage 2.*
- *To narrow the gap in participation in the public life of the school between disabled pupils (including learning-disabled pupils) and other pupils.*
- *To narrow the gap in mathematics between boys and girls at the end of Key Stage 1.*

Fostering good relations

- *To reduce the incidence of prejudice-related bullying, hostility and suspicion throughout the school, particularly in relation to homophobia and sexism, and hostile attitudes and behaviour towards people who are disabled.*
- *To promote and enhance community cohesion and a sense of shared belonging in the school, and in the school's neighbourhood.*
- *To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the teaching of English and literacy, with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity.*

Questions about each objective which a school adopts

With regard to each objective which a school selects, it will need to consider questions such as those listed below:

1. Background evidence

Why have we chosen this objective? For example, and particularly, what relevant data do we have? Is the rationale for the objective clearly indicated in the published information?

2. Procedure

What in practice are we actually going to do?

3. Responsibility

Who will be responsible for ensuring the objective is pursued and achieved?

4. Measurable success indicators

What will count as relevant and measurable evidence that we are succeeding, or have succeeded?

5. Timings

By when do we expect to see signs of progress or success?

6. Expense

How much are we budgeting, and on what items of expenditure in particular?

7. Resistance

Who may be opposed or lukewarm? How shall we respond to them?

8. Problems

What problems or difficulties may arise, and how shall we deal with them?

9. Learning from others

What plans do we have for finding out what has worked well elsewhere?

Do some, or all, staff need extra training?

10. Engagement

Who have we consulted when deciding on this objective?

Note: The information in Appendix 1 is adapted from INSTED - Equalities in Education Resource Folder 2009-11

<http://www.insted.co.uk/equalities.html>