



# Equalities Information and Objectives Policy

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# **School Equalities Policy:**

(including Equalities Information and Objectives)

## **Introduction**

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 as both a provider of education and as an employer.

We believe that all pupils and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstances. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our school. We recognise that equality will only be achieved by the whole school community working together – our pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers.

This document outlines the principles which will guide our approach to working with our school community and enabling an open culture.

For staff and prospective staff, this policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Employment Equality Policy.

## **National and Legal Context**

We recognise that we have duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the school community to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (applicable only to staff), disability, ethnicity, gender (including issues of transgender, maternity and pregnancy), religion and belief, sexual orientation and marital status (applicable only to staff).

We also recognise that we have a duty under the Education & Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion, i.e. developing good relations across different cultures and groups.

We also appreciate that these duties reflect the international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

## **School Context**

We collect equality information and this can be referenced in the appendices of this statement.

## **Principles**

To fulfil our legal obligations, we are guided by a number of principles.

1. All pupils, families and staff are of equal value

We see all pupils, potential pupils, their parents and carers, and staff as of equal value:

- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status
- Whatever their gender and gender identity
- Whatever their religious and non-religious affiliation or faith background

- Whatever their sexual orientation
- Whatever their marital status
- Whether they are currently pregnant or have recently given birth
- Whatever their age
- Whether they have a connection with the forces community
- Whether or not English is their first language
- Whether or not they have refugee/asylum status

## 2. We recognise and respect difference

We recognise that treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. We recognise that our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must take account of diversity and the kinds of barriers and disadvantage that staff, parents/carers or pupils may face in relation to their protected characteristics:

- Disability – we note that reasonable adjustments may need to be made
- Gender (including transgender) – we recognise that girls and boys, men and women have different needs
- Religion and belief – we note that reasonable requests in relation to religious observance and practice may need to be made and complied with
- Ethnicity and race – we note that all have different experiences as a result of our ethnic and racial backgrounds
- Age – we value the diversity in age of staff, parents and carers
- Sexual orientation – we respect that individuals have the right to determine their own sexual identity and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of their preference
- Marital status – we recognise that our staff, parents and carers may make their own personal choices in respect of personal relationships and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of the relationships they have
- Pregnancy and maternity – we believe that our staff, parents and carers should not experience any unfair disadvantage as a result of pregnancy or having recently given birth

## 3. We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- positive attitudes and interaction between groups and communities different from each other
- an absence of harassment, victimisation and discrimination in relation to any protected characteristics

## 4. We observe good equalities practice in relation to staff

We ensure that our policies and practices for all staff and potential staff throughout the employment lifecycle, i.e. from recruitment through to the cessation of employment and beyond, are applied fairly and consistently across all groups with full respect for legal rights, taking into account aspects applicable to particular groups (e.g. duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled staff).

5. We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities avoid or minimise any possible negative impacts and we aim to reduce inequalities that exist between groups and communities different from each other.

6. We consult and involve to ensure views are heard

In our development of policies, we engage with groups and individuals, including pupils who are affected by a policy or activity to ensure that their views are taken into account. For policies and activities affecting pupils, we will take account of views expressed at school council; for parents, through parent governor representation and for staff, through staff governor representation. Where necessary, we will consult more widely with specific groups.

7. We aim to foster greater community cohesion

We intend that our policies, activities and curriculum offer foster greater social cohesion and provide for an equal opportunity to participate in public life irrespective of the protected characteristics of individuals and groups.

8. We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish information annually to show our compliance with the public sector equality duty, set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Our current equality information can be found in Appendix A to this policy statement.

9. We set ourselves specific and measurable equality objectives

We develop and publish specific and measurable objectives every four years based on the evidence that we have gathered (principle 8) and the engagement we have been involved in (principle 7).

The objectives can be found in Appendix B to this policy statement and take into account both national, county and school level priorities.

We will set ourselves new objectives every four years, but keep them under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

**Application of the principles within this policy statement:**

The principles outlined in the policy statement will be applied and reflected in:

- The delivery of the school curriculum
- The teaching and learning within the school
- Our practice in relation to pupil progress, attainment and achievement
- Our teaching styles and strategies
- Our policies and practice in relation to admissions and attendance
- Our policies and practice in relation to staff
- Our care, guidance and support to pupils, their families and staff
- Our policies and practice in relation to pupil behaviour, discipline and exclusions

- Our partnership working with parents and carers
- Our contact with the wider school community

### **Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying**

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice including, but not limited to prejudice related to protected characteristics. We will ensure that prejudice-related incidents in relation to staff and pupils are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The local governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented and that arrangements are in place to deal with any concerns or unlawful action that arises. This policy will be reviewed by the local governing body in conjunction with its equality objectives every four years.

The school leader is responsible for implementation of this policy, ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and given appropriate training and support and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

All staff are expected to work in accordance with the principles outlined in this policy to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their practice
- deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons
- support pupils in their class who have additional needs

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sexual orientation, religion and belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, pupils, parents, pupils' usual schools and health staff in the following ways:

- Parent questionnaires
- Pupil questionnaires
- Discharge questionnaires and long term tracking questionnaires for pupils' usual schools
- MDT meetings with hospital staff
- Regularly attending Southampton Medical Needs Panel with lead professionals in inclusion, SEND, Education Welfare
- Staff survey
- School council

Pupil-related data

Pupil Information – Southampton Hospital School

Southampton Hospital School is an Alternative Provision Academy based at Southampton General Hospital. Our school is focused on enabling pupils with medical needs to access education and we are organised into three key areas to accomplish this: the General Hospital Wards, Bursledon House and our Medical Outreach Provision, which is commissioned by Southampton Local Authority Inclusion Team. Across our service, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the individual needs of each pupil. Every child will benefit from quality educational time both on a one to one and small group basis. We also liaise with mainstream schools to gather information enabling us to provide continuity for each child's study programme.

We are committed to working hard to minimise the effect on children's education of their stay in hospital, and ensure that they feel as happy and supported as possible when being taught in class or at bedside.

We believe that all children with medical needs are entitled to excellent educational, pastoral and spiritual support during a period of their lives when they are unable to attend their home schools. We believe that all pupils have a right to an enriching and stimulating curriculum delivered by teachers who are passionate about the provision. We are committed to working as part of a

multidisciplinary team to support young people either on their return to school within the framework of a smooth transition process or to identify the best provision post discharge.

As a team we believe in the provision of education based on individual pupils' needs and delivered within a caring and compassionate atmosphere. Equality of access and opportunity is central to all that we do, and we make it our aim to ensure all students receive the very best teaching available, regardless of their particular medical needs and status of their health whilst they are with us. As well as medical needs, equality of opportunity is provided regardless of any protected characteristics: students' age, ability, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief.

On average, the number of pupils dual registered with us during an academic year is 280, although this can vary annually. Children and young people stay with us for periods of between 3 days and 3 academic years, depending on their need and reason for admission. The majority of pupils attend part time due to the need for hospital treatments and therapies.

For the academic year 2022-2023,

Total number of students	288	%
Total number of girls	155	53.8%
Total number of boys	133	46.2%
Total number of SEND	120	41.7%
Total number of SEND with an EHCP	49	17.0%
Total number of SEND without an EHCP	71	24.7%
Total number of disadvantaged	42	14.6%
Total number of pupils with EAL	26	9.0%

The school has published various policies on the school's internet site, such as the SEN report, behaviour policy, attendance policy, safeguarding and child protection policies and our curriculum information. These policies evidence the school's commitment to the principles outlined in this policy and the public sector equality duty.

**Date of publication of this appendix:**

**Date for review and re-publication: September 2027**

## Equality Objectives

## Appendix B

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

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- Staff survey
- School council

Having referred to and analysed our equality information, we have set ourselves the following objective(s):

**Objective 1:** To ensure that our school successfully communicates the referral process to families of children with English as an additional language and that we fully support the academic progress and social and emotional welfare of children who have English as an additional language, during their hospital admission

**Objective 2:** To reduce the number of days that pupils who are severely disadvantaged by ill-health miss school, both within our setting and in pupils' home schools

*NB The legislation only requires one objective to be set and this should be pupil related. The number of objectives set should be proportionate to the size and functions of the school.*

*Only where schools have a large staff group is it likely to be necessary for the school to consider setting a staff or employment related objective. Schools should use the action plan on page 20 of the Public Sector Equality Duty Workbook to develop a strategy to achieve these objectives and this plan should be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.*

**Date of publication: September 2023**

**Date for objectives review: September 2024**

*NOTE: The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 require Governing Bodies to publish equality objectives at intervals of no more than four years but schools should publish detail on progress towards these objectives on an annual basis and publish this detail on the school's internet site.*

