



Acklam Whin Primary School
Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Policy Updated by Governors: October 2024
To be Reviewed: October 2025

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Protected characteristics
4. Sex
5. Race and ethnicity
6. Disability
7. Religion and belief
8. Sexual orientation
9. Gender reassignment
10. Pregnancy and maternity
11. Looked after children (LAC)
12. The curriculum
13. Promoting inclusion
14. Pupils that have left school
15. The Public Sector Equality Duty
16. Bullying and discrimination
17. Staff training

Statement of intent

Acklam Whin understands that, under the Equality Act 2010, all schools have a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality between different groups.
- Foster good relations between different groups.
- Promote mental health and wellbeing.

Our school's overall values are underpinned by our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010. We are dedicated to ensuring that every pupil receives an education that offers them the best chance at fulfilling their potential, and to promoting mental wellbeing amongst our pupils. We are committed to supporting and celebrating all pupils' individual identities.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to statutory and good practice guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act and schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children'
- DfE (2018) 'Gender separation in mixed schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Equality Act 2010: advice for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will:

- Be responsible for ensuring the school complies with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure pupils and potential pupils will not be discriminated against, harassed or victimised in relation to:
 - Admissions.
 - The way the school provides and education for pupils.
 - How pupils are provided with access to benefits, facilities and services.
 - The exclusion of a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

- Ensure all policies are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans in collaboration with the headteacher.

The headteacher will:

- Implement and champion this policy, ensuring that all staff and pupils apply its guidelines fairly in all situations.
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of their responsibilities and that training takes place to develop the staff's skills and knowledge.
- Review and amend this policy, taking into account new legislation and government guidance, and previously reported incidents, in order to improve procedures.
- Ensure that appropriate counselling is made available for pupils who require immediate interventions, parental assistance and personal counselling.

Staff will:

- Be alert to the possible harassment of pupils, both inside and outside of the school, and to deal with incidents of harassment and/or discrimination as the highest priority.
- Carry out their statutory duties relating to equal opportunities and inclusivity, and pertaining to their specific roles.
- Have due regard to the sensitivities of all pupils, and not provide material that may cause offence.
- Act as a role model for equality, diversity and inclusion across the whole school community.

3. Protected characteristics

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil, or prospective pupil, because of their:

- Sex.
- Race.
- Disability, which includes mental health, encompassing prejudiced assumptions, attitudes or behaviours related to mental health.
- Religion or belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.
- Pregnancy or maternity.

We will not discriminate against a pupil, or prospective pupil, because of a characteristic related to a person, such as a parent, with whom the pupil or prospective pupil is associated.

We will not discriminate against a pupil, or prospective pupil, because of a characteristic which they are believed to have, even if the belief is mistaken.

4. Sex

For the purpose of this policy, sex refers a pupil's biological assignment at birth depending on their reproductive organs. We understand some pupils identify as a gender different to the one they were assigned at birth, and we will support pupils through their transitioning phases.

We will ensure that pupils of one sex are not singled out for different or less favourable treatment from that given to pupils of other sexes.

Pupils will be offered equal opportunities to undertake any activity in the school.

There may be occasions where we deem it necessary to teach some subjects in single-sex classes, but we will ensure that such classes do not give pupils a disadvantage when compared to pupils of the other sex in other classes.

5. Race and ethnicity

We will ensure that pupils of all races and ethnicities are not singled out for different and less favourable treatment from that given to other pupils, regularly reviewing our school practices to ensure that they are fair.

We will ensure pupils with EAL are treated equally and fairly, while ensuring they are supported at all times.

We will not segregate pupils on the basis of their race or ethnicity, understanding that claims of 'separate but equal' will not be tolerated, and that such actions will always be viewed as direct discrimination.

6. Disability

We will ensure that pupils with disabilities are not singled out or treated less favourably than other pupils simply because they have a disability, which includes any mental health issue, regularly reviewing our school practices to ensure they are fair.

We will avoid implementing rules that could have an adverse effect on pupils with disabilities, unless it is for a legitimate reason and is a proportionate way of achieving that legitimate aim.

We will ensure that we do not discriminate against pupils with disabilities because of something which is a consequence of their disability (for example, by not allowing a pupil on crutches outside at break time because it would take too long for them to get in and out), unless it is for a legitimate reason and is a proportionate way of achieving that legitimate aim.

We will make any reasonable adjustments, and provide any auxiliary aids, necessary to ensure the full inclusion of pupils with disabilities, especially where the pupil also has SEND but does not have a SEND statement or EHC plan.

We will meet our duty to undertake accessibility planning for pupils with disabilities and ensure that an Accessibility Plan is implemented and reviewed where necessary.

The school adheres to our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy containing further information addressing equal opportunities for pupils with SEND.

We will ensure that any medical conditions related to a pupil with a protected characteristic is fully supported in line with our Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

7. Religion and belief

We will ensure that pupils are not singled out or treated less favourably because of their religion or belief, regularly reviewing our school practices to ensure that they are fair.

Absences in relation to religious observances will be handled in accordance with the school's Attendance and Absence Policy.

8. Sexual orientation

We will ensure that all gay, lesbian and bisexual pupils, or the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents, are not singled out for different or less favourable treatment from that given to other pupils, regularly reviewing our school practices to ensure that they are fair.

We will educate pupils on positive relationships, families and gender identities. RSHE lessons will be taught in accordance with our Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

We will ensure that any religious beliefs with regards to sexual orientation are taught to pupils in an educational context, in a manner that is not prejudicial or discriminatory.

We will support LGBTQ+ pupils to feel comfortable and ensure they can celebrate their identity.

9. Gender reassignment

We will ensure that pupils are not singled out or treated less favourably in relation to gender reassignment, i.e. because they are trans or have trans parents, siblings or other family members. We will regularly check our school practices to ensure that they are fair in this regard. We recognise that gender reassignment does not necessarily involve physical change, and can be solely social and emotional.

We will ensure that there are suitable toilet and changing facilities for pupils to use.

10. Pregnancy and maternity

We will ensure that pupils are not singled out or treated less favourably because they become pregnant, have recently given birth, have children or are breastfeeding.

We will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate absence requests for the treatment and support of pupils who are pregnant or have just given birth.

11. Looked-after children (LAC)

LAC and previously LAC (PLAC) will be given the highest priority for admissions, as per the requirements of our Admissions Policy.

We will ensure that pupils are not singled out or treated less favourably because they are looked after, or have previously been looked after.

A personal education plan will be created and implemented for all LAC and PLAC, to ensure that their education and development needs are fully covered, including appropriate transition and catch-up support to ensure that they do not fall behind.

We will ensure that any SEND that LAC or PLAC have are duly taken into account and addressed, whether this is with or without an EHC plan.

12. The curriculum

We believe that pupils should be exposed to thoughts and ideas of all kinds, however challenging or controversial, and will not make any unjustified changes to our curriculum content on the grounds of any protected characteristics that a pupil may have. We will ensure, however, that the curriculum is as balanced as possible, and delivered in such a way that prevents discrimination and the promotion of prejudicial stereotypes.

The observation of inclusive teaching strategies is a key aspect of the SLT's programme of monitoring.

We will respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from sex education.

13. Promoting inclusion

We will promote inclusion and equality at our school through:

- Ensuring that pupils are called by their preferred names, which may be different from their legal names, taking into account the correct spelling, structure and pronunciation.
- Ensuring, as far as possible, that our governing board and staff reflect the full diversity of our local community.
- Providing an environment where prejudiced assumptions, attitudes and behaviours are continually challenged.
- Instilling in pupils an awareness of prejudice, giving them confidence that it can, and must, be eradicated.
- Providing a variety of educational and residential visits that expose pupils to a wide range of cultural experiences.
- Ensuring equal access to opportunities, such as extracurricular activities and the curriculum.

Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

- Taking care in the use of language and the choice of resources, so that teaching and non-teaching staff avoid reinforcing stereotypical views of society.
- Valuing the cultural experiences and contributions of all pupils, regardless of any protected characteristic that they may have.
- Ensuring admission arrangements will not unfairly disadvantage a pupil from a particular social or racial group, or with SEND.

14. Pupils that have left school

Our responsibility to not discriminate, harass or victimise does not end when a pupil has left school. It will continue to apply with regard to subsequent actions related to our previous relationship with the pupil, such as the provision of references.

15. The Public Sector Equality Duty

We will meet our duty to publish:

- Annual information to demonstrate how the school is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty, taking into account the specific circumstances surrounding pupils who have any of the protected characteristics outlined in [section 3](#). (See section 18)
- Equality objectives (at least every four years) outlining how we may further equality in our school. (See section 18)

16. Bullying and discrimination

Our Anti-bullying Policy: Pupils will be used in conjunction with this policy in order to prevent, and effectively deal with, any discriminatory incidents.

Any incidents of a child protection or safeguarding nature will be reported, recorded and dealt with in line with the process in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to decide whether it is appropriate to notify social services and/or the police of any incident.

Concerns with regards to the handling of bullying and discrimination incidents will be dealt with via the procedures outlined in our Complaints Procedures Policy.

17. Staff training

Staff will receive appropriate training where there is an identified need.

18. Equality Objectives

At Acklam Whin Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, religion or socio-economic background.

Equality objectives 2022

1. To strive to ensure that all groups make progress at least in line with their peers. Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by groups and identify any trends in data which require additional support for pupils.
2. To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities.

Equality Objectives 2024	Actions	Review
<p>To strive to ensure that all groups make progress at least in line with their peers. Monitor and analyse pupil achievement by groups and identify any trends in data which require additional support for pupils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HT, Key Stage Leaders and SENDCo analyse data each term to ensure all groups make progress at least in line with their peers. • Children are identified, interventions are delivered and the impact is monitored for those children not making progress at least in line with their peers. • Pupil progress meetings focus upon those children who are not making expected progress. • A sample of children not on trajectory for their progress are identified for book looks. • Attendance issues monitored and addressed. Attendance officer employed half a day every fortnight to support. • Children's social, emotional and mental health support is provided by a member of staff in school and external support from Bungalow Partnership and The Junction. • Parents are supported in school and are signposted where applicable to appropriate professionals. 	<p>Review due at least every 4 years</p>
<p>To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE taught throughout school. Develop relationships with local religious figures and visit local places of worship. • Jigsaw scheme taught in PSHE lessons • Implementation of child-on-child abuse policy to ensure any incidents of abuse related to a specific characteristic are dealt with swiftly and consistently in line with policy. • Children with additional needs attend Tees Valley inclusion sporting events. • Some assemblies linked to celebrating achievements of adults and children from different cultures, faiths, ethnic origins and disabilities. • School Council represents the views of the children. • Equal opportunities for children of both genders to take part in all activities. • Sex and relationships teaching takes place in upper key stage 2. • Ongoing staff CPD to raise awareness. 	