

Lynnfield Primary School
Equality Information and Objectives Policy

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1. Statement of intent

Lynnfield Primary School recognises that certain groups in society have historically been disadvantaged on account of unlawful discrimination they have faced on the basis of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

This policy will put in place a range of actions to eliminate prejudice, unlawful discrimination and victimisation within the school community and workforce.

2. Legal framework

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

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This policy also has due regard for non-statutory guidance, including the following: DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

The Equality Act 2010 provides a modern, single legal framework with three broad duties:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the purpose of this policy, the Equality Act 2010 will be referred to as 'the Act'.

The school fully understands the principles of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equal opportunities.

Protected characteristics, under the Act, are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnicity
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- In relation to admissions.
- In the way it provides education for pupils.
- In the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service.
- By excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The responsible body for the school is the governing body or the LA.

The school's liability not to discriminate, harass or victimise does not end when a pupil has left the school, but will apply to subsequent actions connected to the previous relationship between school and pupil, such as the provision of references on former pupils or access to "old pupils" communications and activities.

The school will promote equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and will work in line with the Equality in Employment Policy & Procedure.

3. Principles and aims

We see all learners and potential learners, and their parents and carers, as of equal value, regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantages which people may face in relation to their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Lynnfield Primary School will promote race equality and have due regard to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

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Lynnfield Primary School will promote disability equality throughout the school, ensuring the equality of opportunity, eliminating unlawful discrimination, eliminating disability related harassment and encouraging participation by disabled people in public life.

Lynnfield Primary School will promote gender equality by eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment, and promote the equality of opportunity between men and women, girls and boys.

Transgender people are explicitly covered by the gender equality duty. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'transgender' refers to an individual whose gender expression or identity is different from that traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. This school will respect the confidentiality of those seeking gender re-assignment and will provide a supportive environment within the social community.

Lynnfield Primary School is opposed to all forms of prejudice and recognises that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice related discrimination may fare less well in the education system.

Lynnfield Primary School will ensure that all staff comply with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.

The Lynnfield Primary School's Admissions Policy will not discriminate in any way.

The school will:

- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities, are given necessary training and support, and report progress to the governing board.
- Ensure that the recording and reporting of equality and diversity is sufficiently scrutinised.
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging, and ensure this is promoted in our policies, procedures and activities.
- Observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development, and ensure that all policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.
- Reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.
- Engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy, procedure or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones.
- Ensure that policies, procedures and activities benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in the public life of everyone, regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

- Ensure staff promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenging inappropriate language and behaviour, responding appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, and showing appropriate support for pupils with additional needs, maintaining a good level of awareness of issues surrounding equalities.

4. Objectives

Whilst continuously aiming to improve the implementation of equality related policies and procedures, Lynnfield Primary School has established the following objectives:

- To monitor changes to the curriculum to ensure they result in good outcomes for pupils in all vulnerable groups, and to review the curriculum in light of new performance measures.
- To improve the quality of support for pupils in all vulnerable groups in the classroom.
- To continue to explore the use of new technologies to support pupils in all vulnerable groups in accessing their learning. With special investigation taking place regarding the use of technology in modern foreign languages, internal exams and group work.

The school will update all published equality documentation annually and will publish its objectives at least every four years.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The governing body will:

- Ensure that the Lynnfield Primary School complies with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.
- Meet its obligations under the PSED to:
 - Publish equality objectives at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.
 - Update and publish information every year to demonstrate school compliance with the PSED.
- Ensure that Lynnfield Primary School's policies and procedures are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans.
- Ensure that the recording and reporting of equality and diversity data is sufficiently scrutinised.
- Ensure that the Lynnfield Primary School's Admissions Policy does not discriminate in any way.
- Ensure equal opportunities in its staff recruitment and promotion practices, professional development programmes and in membership of the governing board.
- Proactively recruit high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.
- Provide information in appropriate and accessible formats.
- Ensure that the necessary disciplinary measures are in place to enforce this policy.

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The Executive Headteacher will:

- Implement the policy and its procedures.
- Ensure that all staff members receive the appropriate equality and diversity training as part of their HR induction and continuous professional development.
- Ensure that all parents, visitors and contractors are aware of and are in compliance with the provisions of this policy.
- Actively challenge and take appropriate action in any case of discriminatory practice.
- Address any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with DfE guidance.
- Produce an annual report on the progress of implementing the provisions of this policy.

Employees will:

- Be mindful of any incidence of harassment or bullying in the school.
- Address any minor issues of harassment or bullying in the school and report any major breaches of the policy to the Executive Headteacher.
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and the school's culture.
- Promote equality and good relations, and not harass or discriminate in any way.
- Monitor students' progress and academic needs to ensure the appropriate support is in place.
- Keep up-to-date with equality legislation and its application by attending the appropriate training.

Students will:

- Not discriminate or harass any other pupil or staff member.
- Actively encourage equality and diversity in the school by contributing their cultural experiences and values.
- Report any incidences of bullying or harassment, whether to themselves or to others, to their class teacher or to another member of the school staff.
- Abide by all the school's equality and diversity policies, procedures and codes.

Lynnfield Primary School will publish its Equality Information and Objectives Policy and action plan on its website, in order to demonstrate how it is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010, and advancing equality of opportunity.

6. Equality objectives

The school is committed to promoting the welfare and equality of all its staff, pupils and other members of the school community.

To achieve this, the school has established the following objectives:

- Monitor changes to the curriculum to ensure they result in good outcomes for pupils in all vulnerable groups, and to review the curriculum considering new performance measures
- Improve the quality of support for pupils in all vulnerable groups in the classroom
- Continue to explore the use of new technologies to support pupils in all vulnerable groups in accessing their learning. With special investigation taking place regarding the use of technology in modern foreign languages, internal exams and group work
- The school will regularly review the steps being taken and the progress made towards the achievement of these objectives and, in line with the specific duties of the PSED, publish this information on the school website every year. The school will update and publish its equality objectives at least every four years.

7. Collecting and using information

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the Data Protection Act 2018, personal data will be lawfully collected and processed in line with the principles and practices outlined in the Data Protection Policy and only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, e.g. to comply with the school's legal obligations.

- The school will collect equality information for the purpose of:
- Identifying key issues, e.g. unlawful discrimination in teaching methods.
- Assessing performance, e.g. benchmarking against similar organisations locally or nationally.
- Taking action, e.g. adapting working practice to accommodate the needs of staff who share protected characteristics.

The school will build an equality profile for staff to assist with identifying any issues within their recruitment regime. The school will obtain the following information from their staff:

- Recruitment and promotion
- Numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- Pay and remuneration
- Training
- Return to work of women on maternity leave
- Return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disabilities
- Appraisals
- Grievances (including about harassment)
- Disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- Dismissals and other reasons for leaving

The school will use the information they obtain to analyse any gaps present in their equality documentary, including the Equal Opportunities Policy: Pupils and Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work Policy.

8. Promoting equality

In order to meet our objectives, the school has identified the following priorities:

- The school will provide auxiliary aids that are directly related to disabled pupil's educational needs as a reasonable adjustment, so they can integrate wholly in all parts of school life.
- Staff will ensure that all pupils are able to take part in extra-curricular activities and residential visits, and the school will monitor uptake of these visits to ensure no one is disadvantaged on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- The school will ensure that all forms of prejudice-motivated bullying is taken seriously and dealt with equally and firmly.
- There will be differential schemes of work designed to meet the needs of all pupils.
- There will be a clearly defined disciplinary system stipulated in the Mental Health and Behaviour Policy, which will be consistently enforced.
- The school will increase access for disabled children and young people to the school curriculum and will take necessary steps to meet pupils' needs by using a variety of approaches and planning reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, enabling them to take as full a part as possible in the activities of the school.
- The school will ensure there is adequate access to the physical environment of the school.
- Throughout the year, the school will plan ongoing events to raise awareness of equality and diversity.

The school will consult with stakeholders to establish equality objectives and draw up a plan based on information collected on protected groups and accessibility planning.

Any reports of bullying and prejudice will be carefully monitored and dealt with accordingly. Training will be given to all staff to ensure that they are aware of the process for reporting and following up incidents of prejudice-related bullying.

9. Addressing prejudice-related incidents

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice. The school will ensure that pupils and staff are aware of the impact of prejudice. The school will address any incidents immediately and, where appropriate, report them to the LA.

10. Complaints procedures

The school aims to resolve all complaints at the earliest possible stage and is dedicated to continuing to provide the highest quality of education possible throughout the procedure. Any person, including a member of the public, is able to make a complaint about the provision of facilities or services that the school provides.

The school will adhere to the Complaints Procedures Policy to ensure a straightforward, impartial, non-adversarial process, that allows a full and fair investigation, respects confidentiality and delivers an effective response and, appropriate redress. If a complaint has completed the school's process and the

complainant remains dissatisfied, they have the right to appeal, as outlined in the Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school works to develop good professional relationships between colleagues; however, we understand that sometimes conflicts may arise. Through maintaining open communication, we want our employees to feel able to raise any grievances so that appropriate and effective solutions can be put in place. Grievances raised by staff members will be processed in accordance with the school's Grievance Policy.

11. Gender reassignment

The Act ensures legal protection against discrimination (direct or indirect) for everyone under the nine protected characteristics mentioned previously, including gender reassignment.

A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if that person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.

All members of staff and pupils have a right to privacy, which includes the right to keep one's transgender status confidential. School staff should not disclose information that may reveal a child or other staff member's transgender status.

The school will appoint a staff member in whom any transgender child can confide and who can deal with any issues that may arise, for instance bullying or harassment.

A glossary of terminology related to the transgender field can be found on the [Gender Identity Research and Education Society website](#).

12. Uniform/dress policy

The Act does not deal specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance, such as hair colour and style, and the wearing of jewellery and make-up, but the general requirement not to discriminate in the treatment of pupils applies here in relation to other aspects of the school policy.

Lynnfield Primary School will ensure that blanket uniform policies do not discriminate because of race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Lynnfield Primary School will be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline.

13. Curriculum

All pupils will be entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum and to teaching and learning opportunities which meet their needs, including extra support where this has been identified as a statutory need.

When planning the curriculum, the school will take every opportunity to promote and advance equality. When teaching the curriculum, the school will promote equality and

will not subject individuals to discrimination. The school will develop an appropriate curriculum for all pupils in all vulnerable groups and will ensure PSHE lessons are designed for pupils to develop their knowledge of the world and the importance of equality.

14. Monitoring and review

Lynnfield Primary School will review this policy annually via the Executive Headteacher, to ensure that all procedures are up-to-date.

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Executive Headteacher and Governing Body in the following ways:

- Individual attainment data
- Equal opportunities recruitment data
- Equality impact assessments
- Ofsted inspection judgements on equality and diversity
- Incident records related to harassment and bullying

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

Review Date: August 2021

Reviewed by: S. Sharpe

Approved by Governors:

Next Review Date: August 2022