

Accrington Academy

Equality Information and Objectives

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Equality Information and Objectives

Statement

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1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty 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](#).

This document also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body 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, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the Headteacher

The equality link Governor is **Peter Mulholland**.

She will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality prior to each Governor meeting, and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they are familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full Governing Body regarding any issues

The Headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The designated member of staff for equality, **Will Aitken**, will:

- Support the Headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Meet with the equality link Governor prior to every Governor meeting to raise and discuss any issues
- 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 year.

The school has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues – Will Aitken, and an equality link Governor – Peter Mulholland. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these issues, as appropriate.

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 which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, LGBT 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, ensuring that transgender students have access to appropriate hygiene facilities)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities organised by the school (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school enrichment activities)

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
- 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 seeks advice and guidance from students with protected characteristics and their parents when ensuring arrangements are in place to promote equality and eliminate discrimination. 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: Undertake an analysis of recruitment data and trends with regard to race, gender and disability by July each year, and report on this to the staffing and pay sub-committee of the Governing Body.

Objective 2: Include the 'Two Ticks' positive about people with disabilities symbol on all job adverts, application forms and information by July of next year, to help address the under-representation of people with disabilities in the school workforce.

Objective 3: Train all members of staff and Governors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination as a part of their 5 yearly recruitment training updates. Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements.

Objective 4: Ensure that the Academy environment, signage and communication reflects the needs and background of our student body and community

Promote Religion and Belief – provision of a faith room allows staff and students to integrate belief into the normal pattern of school life – RE qualification/Assemblies reflect all religious festivals

Have regard to the impact of large quantities of homework when students have commitments after school for religious observance

Have regard to the school year being affected by religious festivals

Ensure the need for special food is made available for religious reasons

Objective 5: Ensure that SMSC permeates all areas of Academy life

Objective 6: Ensure equality and diversity training remain strong threads of Academy staff development training

9. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher, Governing Body and Equality lead will update the equality information we publish, [described in sections 4-7 above], at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by Headteacher and Governing Body at least every year.

This document will be approved by Headteacher and Governing Body each year.

10. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Academy Accessibility Plan
- Risk Assessment Plans
- SEND Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy