



Henleaze Infant School
Equality Plan

Author/Person Responsible	<i>Headteacher</i>
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Review Group	<i>Full Governing Body</i>
Ratification Group	<i>Full Governing Body</i>
Review Frequency	<i>Every four years</i> <i>Subject to local education authority and/or national policy change</i>
Review Date	<i>May 2025</i>
Previous Review Amendments/Notes	
Related Policies	
Equality Impact Assessment- Have any adverse impacts been identified under the Equalities Plan? (nb – if answered ‘yes’ please attach a Full Impact Assessment)	
Is there an impact on the Governor Handbook? (if ‘yes’ please inform Clerk)	
Chair of Governors Signature	

HENLEAZE INFANT SCHOOL

Equality Plan

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1. Mission statement

At Henleaze Infant School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief, socio-economic background or being pregnant or undertaking maternity leave. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Henleaze Infant School we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

This is underpinned by the Equality Act 2010.

The Act covers the following protected characteristics:

- Sex
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Age
- Disability
- Marriage and civil partnership

It is our duty and we shall endeavour to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

2. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways:

Teaching and learning

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps;
- Take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;
- Ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate based on protected characteristics or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's Behaviour Policy. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

3. Equal Opportunities for Staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Henleaze Infant School.

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law. However, we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community.

Employer duties

As an employer we need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

Equality aspects such as sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and religion or belief are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment, retention and any bullying and harassment of staff;
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all;
- Robust policies and procedures for dealing with allegations of bullying or harassment.

4. Equality and the law

There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with legislation from the Equality Act 2010.

The action plan at the end of this Equality Plan outlines the actions Henleaze Infant School will take to meet the general duties detailed below.

4a. Race Equality

This section of the plan reflects the general and specific duties of schools as detailed in the Equality Act 2010.

The General Race Equality Duty requires us to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination;
- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare an Equality Plan which includes our written policy for race equality;
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this Plan, on pupils, staff and parents by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these pupils;
- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such pupils, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups.

4b. Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's Special Educational Needs Policy and Accessibility Strategy.

Definition of disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The Equality Act 2010 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities;
- Individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is “clinically well-recognised”, although the person must still demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse impact on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Legal duties

The Equality Act 2010 placed a general duty on schools, requiring them to have due regard for the following when carrying out and delivering services:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and non-disabled people;
- Eliminating discrimination and harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people’s needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Disability Equality Scheme identifying our disability equality goals and actions to meet them;

4c. Sex and Gender Equality

The Equality Act 2010 places a general and specific duty on schools to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sex or gender reassignment, and to promote equality of opportunity between female and male pupils and between trans and non-trans people.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex and gender reassignment;
- Promote equality between men and women.
- Promote equality between trans and non-trans people.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Prepare and publish an Equality Plan which covers the requirements for a Gender Equality Scheme identifying our gender equality goals and actions to meet them;

4d. Sexual Orientation

The Equality Act 2010 made provision for regulations to be introduced to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of religion or belief to sexual orientation.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2010 came into force on 1 Oct 2010, and they make discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For schools this means admissions, benefits and services for pupils and treatment of pupils.

4e. Community cohesion

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

4f. Age, religion or belief, or marital status

The Equality Act 2010 makes it illegal to discriminate against any employee on the grounds of age, marital status, religion or belief.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Ensure equal opportunities for staff in respect of appointments, appraisal, career progression.
- Any reported discrimination on the grounds of age, marital status, religion or belief will be dealt with by the leadership of the school in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy.
- Reasonable and appropriate adjustments will be made in respect of specific needs or requests with regard to the practice of religious or other beliefs, or arising out of age related conditions or circumstances.
- Reasonable and appropriate adjustments may be made for children with particular religious or other beliefs, in response to requests from parents. Such requests may relate to:
 - School uniform
 - Assemblies
 - Curriculum
 - Trips
 - Religious observance

4g. Pregnancy and Maternity

The rights of pregnant women and new mothers are covered by the school's maternity policy.

Under our general duty we will:

- Not discriminate against a woman within a protected period in relation to a pregnancy or treat her unfavourably because of the pregnancy or because of an illness suffered as a result.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Carry out risk assessments for pregnant staff.
- Ensure that staff are aware of their rights to attend appointments in connection with their pregnancy.
- Make reasonable and appropriate adjustments in response to the risk assessment.
- Provide staff with all the information they need in relation to maternity leave, payment, and return to work.
- Link to the flexible working policy.

5. Consultation and involvement

It is a requirement that the development of this plan and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from the annual parent questionnaire, parents' evening, parent-school forum meetings or governors' parent-consultation meetings, the dates of which will be diarized;
- Input from staff surveys (with questions included in the Term 6 survey), through staff meetings / INSET (dates diarized);
- Feedback from PSHE lessons, whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school;
- Issues raised in annual reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans / Personalised Provision Maps, mentoring and support;
- Feedback at Governing Body meetings.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of governors

- The governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities in this plan and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils, and responsive to their needs based on race, gender and disability and other protected characteristics.
- The governing body seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school on grounds of protected characteristics.
- The governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible for parents, carers and pupils.
- The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever a child's socio-economic background, race, gender or disability or other protected characteristic.
- The governing body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of protected characteristics.

The role of the headteacher (or senior leader responsible for Equalities)

- It is the headteacher's role to implement the school's Equality Plan and s/he is supported by the governing body in doing so.
- It is the headteacher's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Plan, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- The headteacher ensures that all appointments panels give due regard to this plan, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities.
- The headteacher promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life.
- The headteacher treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness.

The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- All staff will ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's Equality Plan.
- All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images of people of all kinds, including those of different race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images.
- All staff will challenge any incidents of prejudice, including racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the headteacher.
- Teachers support the work of ancillary or support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents.

7. Tackling discrimination

Harassment on account of protected characteristics is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a pupil's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher / headteacher where necessary. All incidents are reported to the headteacher and racist incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other characteristics such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as:
'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

Types of discriminatory incident

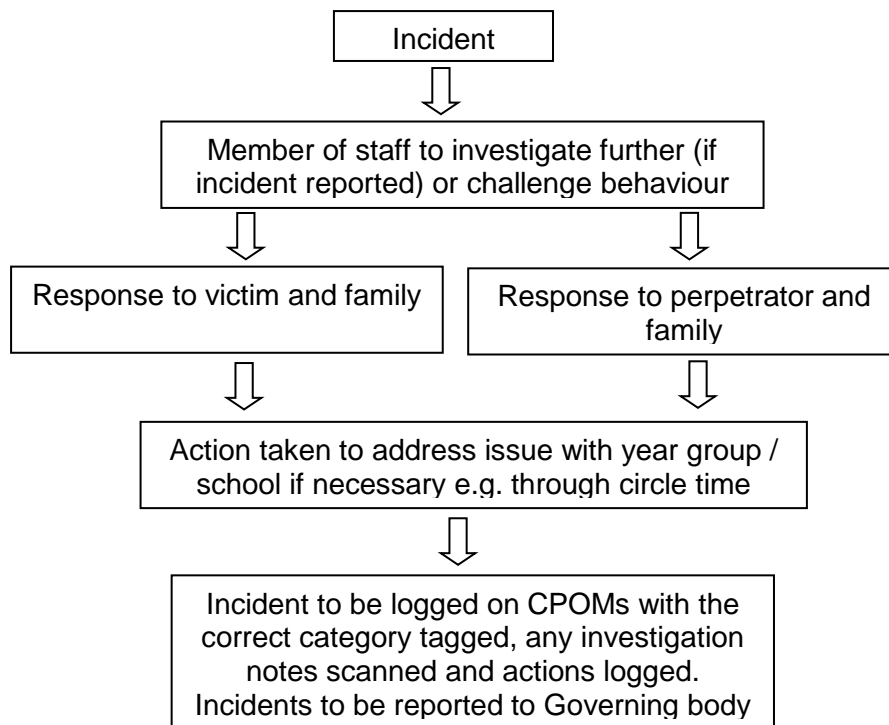
Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their perceived or actual ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, gender or other protected characteristic;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender, sexual orientation or other protected characteristic;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other protected characteristic.

Responding to and reporting discriminatory incidents

It should be clear to pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.

A suggested procedure for responding and reporting is outlined below:



	Action	Who is responsible	By when
Consultation	Staff group to be given opportunity to comment on equality Plan	GF, RB	July 2021
	Parent surveys reviewed to ensure Equality Plan reflects their feedback (inc May SEND survey)	GF, SS	
Curriculum	Resources audited to ensure diversity	Subject leaders	September 2021
Workforce	Advice sought from LA about how to increase workforce diversity	GF, LO	January 2022

8. Review of progress and impact

The Plan has been agreed by our Governing Body. We have a rolling programme for reviewing our school policies and their impact. In line with legislative requirements, we will review progress against our Equality Action Plan annually and review the entire plan and accompanying action plan on a three year cycle.

9. Publishing the plan

In order to meet the statutory requirements to publish a Disability Equality Scheme and Gender Equality Scheme, we will:

- Publish our plan on the school website;
- Raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications;

Equality Strand	Objective	How objective will be achieved	Responsibility for implementation	Timeframe	Success indicators
All	Publish and promote the Equality Plan through the school website, newsletter and staff meetings.	Head to ensure promotion of plan.	Headteacher / designated member of staff.	Ongoing	Equality Plan principles are shared at staff meetings/in the staff handbook. Principles are used in planning lessons & creating displays. Parents are aware of the Equality Plan on the website.
All	Update staff equalities data annually.	Annual questionnaire to go out with Salary statement each autumn.	School Business Manager	Each October	SIMS records show race, disability and gender details.
All	Equalities audit of curriculum.	Curriculum team to review schemes of work for impact on gender, race and disability.	Teaching staff	Ongoing	Curriculum / subject policies amended if necessary. Heightened awareness of equalities in teachers' planning.
All	Improve governance of equality issues.	Learning Walks for Governors with focus on evidence for equalities in displays.	Governors	Ongoing	Governors can cite evidence of equalities in action & are able to hold the school to account.