

# Merton Junior School

## Public Sector Equality Duty Policy



Date reviewed: May 2025		
Next review date: May 2026		
Headteacher	Signed:	Date: May 2025
Chair of Governors	Signed:	Date: May 2025
<b>Reviews</b>		
- Policy written – October 2022 (adapted from The Key’s model policy and inline with the DfE’s non-statutory guidance updated March 2022)		

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### 1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation 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 a relevant protected characteristic
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are:
  - Age
  - Disability
  - Gender reassignment
  - Marriage or civil partnership
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation

## 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](#), the [technical guidance for schools from the Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) and [guidance from the Government Equalities Office on meeting the specific duties that support the Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board 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/carers
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years

- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher

The equality link governor is Kate Fowkes. She will:-

- Meet with the designated member of staff (Headteacher) for equality every term and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full governing board regarding any issues

The headteacher will:

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

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 in the Autumn Term of each academic year.

The school has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues, and an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these 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 that are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school societies)

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
- › Making pupils aware of our behaviour and anti-bullying policies
- › 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 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

*Ensure that there is an area of the school available for our students who need to pray at key times (e.g. lunchtime)*

Why we have chosen this objective: Currently we have a large number of pupils who require a space to pray.

## **Objective 2**

*Train all members of staff and governors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by the beginning of the next academic year. Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements. Annual training for all staff on equality to be booked in for October's INSET day.*

Why we have chosen this objective: Staff involved in recruitment are Safer Recruitment trained, training them on equality intertwined with this is our next step.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Headteacher to provide training for those involved in the interview panel.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

## **Objective 3**

*To review all equality forms for all applications received throughout the academic year to gain an understanding of the groups who are applying for positions at our school.*

Why we have chosen this objective: We need to broaden our range of applicants to our roles and, to do this successfully, we need to investigate and categories who does apply.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Collate data and investigate reasons to inform future adverts.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The FGB will update the equality information we publish, described in sections 4 to 7 above, at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by the Headteacher at least every 4 years.

This document will be approved by the FGB.

## **10. Links with other policies**

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Individual risk assessments
- SEND Policy