



Ribblesdale
School

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Ribblesdale School

Equality Information and Objectives Policy

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Statement of intent

Ribblesdale School recognises that certain groups in society can be disadvantaged because of unlawful discrimination they may face due to their race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, or pregnancy and maternity.

The school has a statutory duty to publish an Equality Information and Objectives Statement. This policy sets out how the school determines its equality objectives and how they will be implemented and monitored.

1. 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
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

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:

- Equality Information and Objectives Statement
- Admissions Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Data Protection Policy

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

- Eliminate discrimination harassment and victimisation
- 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 including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin
- 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 board 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 former pupils' communications and activities.

The school promotes equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants.

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will:

- Ensure that the school complies with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.
- Meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to:

Publish equality objectives and update and publish information every year to demonstrate school compliance with the PSED. *Note: The school has an equality page on its website, demonstrating how we comply with the PSED in the Equality Act 2010, and advancing equality of opportunity.*

- Ensure that the school's policies and procedures are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans.
- Ensure that the 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.

The headteacher will:

- Implement and champion this policy and its procedures.
- Ensure that all staff members receive the appropriate equality and diversity training as part of their induction and CPD.
- Ensure that all parents, visitors, and contractors are aware of, and comply 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 and report it to the governing board.

Employees will:

- Be mindful of any incidents of harassment or bullying in the school.
- Track and monitor any instances of discrimination and deal with these in a consistent manner as per the schools Behaviour For Learning and Anti Bullying policy.
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and the school's culture of The Ribblesdale Way.
- Promote equality and good relations, and not harass or discriminate in any way.
- Monitor pupils' progress and needs to ensure the appropriate support is in place.
- Keep up to date with equality legislation and its application by attending the appropriate training.
- Champion diversity and inclusion.

Pupils 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 Pastoral Coordinator or any other member of staff (Green Heart reporting also available).
- Abide by all the school's equality and diversity policies, procedures, and codes.

We ensure that pupils are informed and guided with regards to the above through:

- The Ribblesdale Way
- My Future Mattes (Promoting British values, equality, and diversity)
- Form Time Personal Development Curriculum and the wider curriculum (e.g., RE, Enrichment and PSHE, but not limited to these)
- Regular updates through CASCADES and Assemblies

3. Equality objectives

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

We see all members of the school community as of equal value, regardless of any protected characteristic. The school's policies, procedures and activities will not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences in life experience, outlook, and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face in relation to any protected characteristic.

Please refer to the school's Equality Information and Objectives Statement which sets out how the school is meeting the PSED and outlines how equality of opportunity is ensured for all members of the school community. It also contains the Equality Objectives for academic year. *Note: The Equality Information and Objectives Statement is reviewed at least every four years and is published on the school website annually.*

4. Collecting and using information

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the UK GDPR and 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 staff members on parental 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 it obtains to analyse any gaps present in its equality documentary.

5. Publishing information

The school will publish information to demonstrate its compliance with the Act.

6. Promoting equality

The school's Equality, Behaviour for learning, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying and Diversity and Inclusion Policy work in tandem in setting out the school's approach to promoting equality and diversity across the whole school community.

7. Addressing prejudice-related incidents

Ribblesdale School is opposed to all forms of prejudice and takes every possible opportunity throughout the curriculum in its widest sense and interaction with pupils to 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.

Any reports of bullying and prejudice are carefully monitored and dealt with accordingly. In line with the schools Behaviour For Learning and Anti- Bullying Policy, regular training and updates are given to all staff to ensure that they are aware of the process for reporting and following up incidents of prejudice-related bullying.

8. 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 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 Policy.

The school will work to develop good professional relationships between colleagues; however, the school understands that sometimes conflicts may arise. Through maintaining open communication, we want 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.

Monitoring and review

The Deputy Headteacher will review this policy annually, to ensure that all procedures are up to date. The policy will be monitored and evaluated by the headteacher and governing board in the following ways:

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