



# Equality and Diversity Policy

**Last revised: March 2023**

**Policy Owner: Headmaster**

## Policy Statement

Lyndhurst School is dedicated to ensuring that all members of the school community and the wider community are treated equally, fairly, and with respect by the school and by each other. This applies to the school as a place of education, a business, and an employer. Prejudice, discrimination (direct or indirect), and victimisation are not tolerated, and we work hard to instil in our pupils a strong understanding of right and wrong, including the importance of inclusion, acceptance, and compassion towards others. The school's main priority is to provide the best education and care that we can and establish a cooperative working relationship between home and school, to aid the development, progress, and needs of all the children in our care.

This plan sets out how the school will satisfy its duties under the Equality Act to eliminate all discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other behaviour prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, to foster good relations between persons with and without protected characteristics and promote equality of opportunity regardless of whether a person has a protected characteristic (such as race, gender, transgender, disability, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation). The school aims to comply with this duty, in both the delivery of its services and the employment of its staff. It is created in line with the Equality Act 2010 and is the foundation of all the school's other policies – particularly those listed below.

## Associated Policies and Documents

- Admissions and Attendance Registers Policy
- Anti-Bullying Strategy
- Behaviour and Sanctions Policy
- Early Years Enjoying and Achieving Policy
- Early Years Positive Contribution Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Staff Disciplinary Policy
- Staff Grievance Policy
- Three Year Accessibility Plan

## Roles and responsibilities

Creating a school environment that promotes equality and denounces discrimination is a whole-school responsibility and requires all members of the school community to be actively involved in breaking down barriers to learning and barriers to social and emotional development that prejudice can create.



Individuals in the school are expected to take responsibility for supporting and promoting equality in school above and beyond the responsibilities listed below.

## The Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- create and approve this document with the help of the Headmaster and ensure that is adopted correctly throughout the school
- ensure the school complies with all equality legislation and the school's equality objectives
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Equality Policy annually and make any amendments to improve on the plan when and where necessary
- nominate a named governor to oversee the implementation of the Equality Policy, monitor equality outcomes, and regularly report back to the rest of the governing body
- ensure that parents are informed of any incident related to this scheme which could directly affect their child
- report to parents, carers, and the wider community on the progress of the school's equality plan through the school prospectus, the school website, and the school's annual report.

## The Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team

The Headmaster, with the support of the rest of the senior leadership team, will:

- promote the single equalities plan both within the school and externally to the rest of the community
- ensure that all staff are aware of their role and responsibilities regarding the promotion and delivery of equality in school
- report back to the governing body on how the plan is working and any amendments that they feel should be made, as well as feedback from staff, pupils and parents
- challenge inappropriate language and behaviour
- tackle bias and stereotyping
- take appropriate action where discrimination or victimisation occurs.

## Staff

School staff will:

- ensure that they are up to date and aware of the contents of this plan and the school's policy towards all types of discrimination
- challenge inappropriate language and behaviour
- tackle bias and stereotyping
- work to promote anti-bullying strategies as outlined in the school's **Behaviour and Sanctions Policy** and **Anti-bullying Strategy**
- show a commitment to undertake development and training within this area
- engage with the school in eliminating any discrimination and act as a good example to pupils
- promote a positive working environment



- report back to their managers immediately on any incidents relating to discrimination or victimisation, either by staff, pupils, or any other member of the school community, so that these incidents can be reviewed, and action taken where necessary.

## Pupils

Pupils at the school will:

- engage with the school in eliminating any discrimination
- promote a positive work environment and a positive attitude towards equality when both in school and off the school site
- report to school staff any incidents of inappropriate language or behaviour, discrimination or victimisation that they know to have occurred
- work to promote the anti-bullying strategies outlined in the school's **Behaviour and Sanctions Policy** and **Anti-bullying Strategy**
- set a good example regarding behaviour and social awareness to younger pupils and their peers.

## Parents, carers, and visitors

Parents, carers, and visitors to the school are expected to:

- familiarise themselves with the school's Equality Policy and support the scheme by promoting a positive attitude towards equality at home
- attend any relevant meetings/awareness-raising sessions that they are invited to relating to the school's equality plan
- work with the school to resolve any incident relating to discrimination or victimisation that their child is involved in
- respect and follow our equality plan when visiting the school.

## Key groups at risk

Whilst the school recognises that any person or group of people can become victim to discrimination, victimisation or unfair treatment, people may be more at risk of becoming victims of inequality due to:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender and transgender
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation

## Promoting equality and social awareness in school and within the local community

### Community cohesion

The school expects all its students and staff to act respectfully towards members of the wider community of which Lyndhurst School is a part.



## Inclusion

Promoting and practising inclusion in school lessons, around the school site, during all school activities and into the wider community is a key part of developing a positive attitude towards equality and people from different backgrounds. You can find more information regarding our provision for and policy on inclusion for SEN in the school's **SEND policy**.

## Pupil voice

Through our support of student voice, we encourage our pupils to have confidence in voicing their opinions and taking responsibility for the world around them. It is important that we teach our children how to engage in mature social interactions and get along with a variety of different types of people. This is developed through student voice by interactions between pupils from different year groups, pupils and staff, and pupils and the wider community.

## Recruitment

Lyndhurst School is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all and ensuring that all stages of recruitment and selection are fair. Recruitment and selection procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation. Lyndhurst School acknowledges that unfair discrimination can arise on occasion and so will ensure that the equal opportunities policy outlined in this plan is the foundation for all its activities.

Where a candidate is known personally to a member of the selection panel it will be declared before shortlisting takes place. It may then be necessary to change the selection panel to ensure that there is no conflict of interest and that equal opportunities principles are adhered to.

More information about our recruitment procedures can be found in the school's **Recruitment Policy**.

## Staff

### Equal opportunities for staff

As part of our commitment to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment, the school will ensure that: [

- all staff appointments and promotions are made based on merit and ability and in compliance with the law;
- staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community wherever possible;
- as an employer we strive to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce including the duty to make reasonable adjustments;
- we respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice;



- we ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

### **Behaviour, exclusions, and attendance**

The school **Behaviour and Sanctions Policy** takes full account of the duties under the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustments for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from school for evidence of over-representation of distinct groups and will take action to address any concerns that arise in this area.

The schools **Behaviour and Sanctions Policy** contains more information on the processes surrounding these topics.

### **The curriculum**

Children have opportunities to learn about diversity and equality through assemblies, PSHE and other lessons, school visits, supporting the local community and charitable events.

The school's **Curriculum and PSHE Policies** contains more information on the processes surrounding these topics.

### **Monitoring and review**

This Equality Policy will be reviewed biennially, unless there is specific reason for it to be reviewed earlier (for example an incident involving members of the school community or new legislation). The review will consider how effective it is in tackling discrimination, promoting access and participation, equality, and good relationships between different groups, and that it does not disadvantage sections of the community. Evidence that it is being put into practice in school by staff and pupils, and whether there is any need for extra training or development sessions across the whole school to ensure it is promoted and implemented as much as possible will also be considered.