



## **Equality Objectives Statement**

**September 2021**



## Opening statement

Highcliffe School Academy Trust is a co-educational, comprehensive, secondary school with over 1500 students aged between 13 and 18. This policy covers the whole school community, including students, staff and governors. The principle is that all students and staff should be supported in fulfilling their potential, while at all times respecting the needs of the individual which forms the foundation for this policy.

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The school's general duties, with regards to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination.
- Fostering good relationships.
- Advancing equality of opportunity.

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

- disability (*from 1 October 2010, the Equality Act replaced most of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). However, the Disability Equality Duty in the DDA continues to apply*)
- ethnicity (including Gypsy and Traveller groups)
- gender
- gender identity and transgender
- faith, religion and belief
- marriage and civil partnership
- sexual orientation (homophobia)
- pregnancy and maternity
- age

We aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality and diversity, and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff. Our school is committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity.

## Aims to eradicate discrimination

We believe that a greater level of success from pupils and staff can be achieved by realising the uniqueness of individuals. Creating a prejudice-free environment where individuals feel confident and at ease is a commitment of the school. This environment will be achieved by:

- Being respectful.
- Always treating all members of the school community fairly.
- Developing an understanding of diversity and the benefits it can have.
- Adopting an inclusive attitude.
- Adopting an inclusive curriculum that is accessible to all.
- Encouraging compassion and open-mindedness.



We are committed to having a balanced and fair curriculum. We believe that our pupils should be exposed to ideas and concepts that may challenge their understanding, to help ensure that pupils learn to become more accepting and inclusive of others. Challenging and controversial concepts will be delivered in a way that prevents discrimination and promotes inclusive attitudes. We will also respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from certain classes which pose conflicts to their own beliefs.

## **Dealing with prejudice**

We do not tolerate any form of prejudice-related incident. Whether direct or indirect, we treat discrimination against all members of our school with the utmost severity. When an incident is reported, through our thorough reporting procedure, our school is devoted to ensuring appropriate action is taken and a resolution is put into place which is both fair and firm.

Our pupils are taught to be:

- Understanding of others.
- Celebratory of cultural diversity.
- Eager to reach their full potential.
- Inclusive.
- Aware of what constitutes discriminatory behaviour.

The school's employees will not:

- Discriminate against any member of the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community unfairly.

The school's employee's will:

- Promote diversity and equality.
- Encourage and adopt an inclusive attitude.
- Lead by example.

## **Equality and dignity in the workplace**

We do not discriminate against staff with regards to their:

- disability (*from 1 October 2010, the Equality Act replaced most of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). However, the Disability Equality Duty in the DDA continues to apply*)
- ethnicity (including Gypsy and Traveller groups)
- gender
- gender identity and transgender
- faith, religion and belief
- marriage and civil partnership
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## Highcliffe School

Equality of opportunity and non-discrimination extends to the treatment of all members of the school community. All staff members are obliged to act in accordance with the school's various policies relating to equality.

We will guarantee that no redundancy is the result of direct or indirect prejudice. All disciplinary procedures are non-prejudicial, whether they result in warnings, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action.

### **Closing statement**

Prejudice is not tolerated and we are continuously working towards a more accepting and respectful environment for our school community.

The school's Equal Opportunities Policy - Students and Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work Policy further outline the school's policies regarding equality.

**Responsibility:** Headteacher

**Review Date:** March 2022