



## **SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY**

<b><u>Review Programme:</u></b>	
<b>Policy adopted by Governors</b>	<b>Autumn 2022</b>
<b>Date for next review:</b>	<b>Autumn 2024</b>
<b>Signed – Headteacher:</b>	<b><i>Mr L. Lee</i></b>

# **SKETCHLEY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY**

### **STATUS: Statutory**

*Sketchley Hill Primary School Single Equality Policy is drawn up in line with and in response to the 2010 Single Equality Act and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.*

*The contents are intended to outline the policies and procedures which are in place in this school in order to ensure compliance with the Act along with further information on the evidence that will be made public.*

### **2010 Single Equality Act:**

The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act and provides a basic framework of protection against direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation. It provides protection for people discriminated against because they are perceived to have, or are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic. It also extends protection against discrimination to disability.

The overriding principle of all equality legislation is generally one of equal treatment for all people, regardless of race, sex, age or disability.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty:**

The PSED came into force across Great Britain on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Public bodies have to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policies, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

The PSED also requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination in all its forms, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relationships between different people when carrying out their activities.

### **Specific Duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty:**

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 came into force on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The specific duties require public bodies to publish relevant, proportionate information showing compliance with the Equality Duty and to set equality objectives.

Sketchley Hill Primary School publishes a link to the relevant documents on the home page of its school website ensuring that their information is readily available to all users. Additional information regarding school policies can be found on the website – policy page link.

The School will endeavour to update the published information on an annual basis.

## **Aim of Single Equality Policy:**

The purpose of implementing the single equality scheme is:

- to articulate the school's commitment to equality which permeates all school policies and practices
- to ensure that everyone who belongs to, or comes into contact with, our school community is valued and respected
- to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation
- to comply with statutory duties under equalities legislation in one document

The strands:

**Race** includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. The Equality Act replaces the *Race Equality Duty*.

**Disability** – the disability provisions in the Equality Act mainly replicate those in the former Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The Act replaces the *Disability Equality Duty*. Schools are required to carry out accessibility planning for all disabled stakeholders and must implement these accessibility plans.

**Sex** – pupils and employees of one sex must not be singled out for different or less favourable treatment. Gender equality must still be promoted but this Act replaces the *Gender Equality Duty*. The Act makes an exception to single sex sporting activities, when a judgement should be made as to the physical disadvantages of particular groups of pupils.

**Religion or belief** is defined by the Act as being any religion or belief including philosophical belief. The lack of religion or belief is also a protected characteristic. Religions include all major faith groups and denominations or sects. Belief includes non-religious world views such as humanism but not political beliefs such as communism.

**Sexual orientation** refers not only to the pupils' and employees sexual orientation but also to the children and partners of gay, lesbian or bi-sexual parents. It is recognised that many people's views on sexual orientation and sexual activity are grounded in their religious beliefs but this is not accepted as an excuse for allowing discrimination to continue.

**Pregnancy and maternity** – the Act applies to pupils and is a new area of equality legislation. (Note – employees are covered by separate Maternity & Paternity policies).

**Gender reassignment** – It is relatively rare for pupils, particularly very young pupils, to be in a programme for gender reassignment, but when a pupil does choose to go along this route, it is acknowledged that a number of issues will arise which will need to be sensitively handled.

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 its pupils
- in the way it provides pupils with access to any benefit, facility or service
- by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment

It is now unlawful -

- for employers to ask health related questions of applicants before a job offer
- to discriminate against a transgender pupil or employee
- to discriminate against a pupil who is pregnant or has recently had a baby.
- to victimise a child for anything done in relation to the Act by their parent/carer or sibling

The law on **disability discrimination** is different from the rest of the Act in that it protects disabled people and allows schools to treat disabled pupils and employees more favourably than non-disabled pupils and employees.

**Exceptions –**

**Single sex schools** are still able to refuse to admit pupils of the opposite sex.

**Schools with a religious character** (commonly known as faith schools) have certain exceptions to the religion or belief provisions.

**Curriculum** – the content of the school curriculum has never been caught by discrimination law and this Act now states explicitly that it is excluded. However, the delivery of the curriculum is explicitly included.

**Acts of worship** – the daily act of collective worship, which for maintained schools is mandatory and should be of a broadly Christian nature, is not covered by the religion or belief provisions.

**Uniforms** – the Act does not deal specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance. It is the Governing Body's right to determine whether or not a school uniform is preferred. Schools should remain sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably when applying uniform rules.

**Bullying** – this is a sensitive area. The relationship between one pupil and another is not within the scope of the Act, schools still have a duty to ensure that all forms of prejudice motivated bullying are taken seriously and dealt with equally and firmly.

**School's duty of care** – the Act does not specifically refer to this duty. Schools have many duties along with complying with the Equality Act and these include their duty of care to all their pupils, their duty to deliver key areas of the curriculum and in particular their duty to deliver religious education or sex and relationship education.

**Meeting the Equality Objectives**

School monitors and analyses pupil performance by ethnicity, gender, disability and special educational needs and take account of socio-economic circumstances. Any disparities which are identified will be addressed through targeted curriculum planning, teaching and support.

Each area of the curriculum is planned to incorporate the principles of equality and to promote positive attitudes to diversity. All subjects contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

The curriculum builds on pupils' starting points and is differentiated appropriately to ensure the inclusion of:

- boys and girls
- pupils learning English as an additional language
- pupils from minority ethnic groups
- pupil who are gifted and talented
- pupils with special educational needs
- pupils with a disability
- pupils who are in public care
- pupils who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion
- lesbian, gay or questioning young people

The following areas are key elements of the school's assessment and tracking programme:

- pupils' attainment - analysis of end of Key Stage results for pupils of particular groups, e.g. boys/girls, SEND, FSM, LAC, summer born, ethnicity
- the quality of particular groups of pupils' learning and the progress they make throughout the school
- the extent to which different groups of pupils feel safe (e.g. incidents of prejudiced based bullying recorded)
- the extent to which pupils from particular groups adopt healthy lifestyles
- the extent to which pupils from particular groups contribute to the school and the wider community (e.g. participation and achievement on extra-curricular/extended school activities, participation on school trips for particular groups of pupils)
- attendance data for all pupils and for particular groups (e.g. extended leave/mobility issues for particular groups of pupils)
- the effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents/carers of particular groups of pupils (e.g. attendance at parents' meetings, involvement in planning provision, consultation with, results of parental feedback)

**Publication:**

**All documents will be published on the School website,  
[www.sketchleyhill.leics.sch.uk](http://www.sketchleyhill.leics.sch.uk)**

**A PSED link (The Accessibility Plan) is available on the front page of the School Website.**

**There is also a dedicated page on the website for the publication of school policies and supplementary documentary evidence.**

**File copy will be maintained by School Office.**

## **Enforcement procedures:**

### **Discrimination claims – court proceedings:**

Proceedings in relation to a contravention of the education provisions of this Act will be brought in a county court by the pupil, or in the pupil's name.

Proceedings must be brought within 6 months of the date of the act to which the claim relates.

If the court rules that there has been a contravention then it has the power to award an appropriate remedy including an award of damages.

### **Discrimination claims – tribunal proceedings for disability cases:**

Specialist tribunals which have experience and knowledge of disability issues will hear cases of contravention of the education provisions on grounds of disability. In England this will be the First-tier Tribunal.

Claims of discrimination or harassment against a pupil by a school will be made to the tribunal by the parent of the pupil.

Claims have to be brought within 6 months of the act to which the claim relates.

If the tribunal rules that there has been a contravention then it has the power to make an order of a remedy. Such a remedy will be with a view to removing or reducing the adverse affect on the pupil concerned.

### **Burden of proof:**

A new provision for schools is the reversal of the burden of proof in cases of contravention of the Act's provision in both court and tribunal cases. This brings education in line with the rest of the legislation. It means that if a complainant can establish facts which could lead to the conclusion that an act of discrimination has taken place, then it will be down to the school to show that the reason for what happened was something other than discrimination.

It is hoped that any pupil who believes they have experienced discrimination will first work with the staff and Governors of the school to identify and rectify the perceived problem.

Normal complaint procedures will be followed to attempt to resolve all issues prior to formal steps.

Evidence must be retained of all measures and steps taken to identify or correct any incidents.

### **Education specific employment provisions:**

All of the protected characteristics, including age, are covered by the employment provisions of the Act.

A school must not discriminate against a potential employee or an existing employee in respect of any of the particular characteristics already identified or in respect of the benefits, facilities or services it offers.

Harassment against potential or existing employees in relation to any of the protected characteristics is also unlawful.

Victimisation of any person who has done a protected act is also unlawful

Schools must make reasonable adjustments in relation to disability for their employees or potential employees as for their pupils.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments to arrangements or practices to alleviate disadvantage and must take reasonable steps to provide any necessary auxiliary aids and services.

School has a duty to consider alterations to physical features of the school where that is reasonable to avoid disadvantage caused by disability.

A new provision introduced by the Act makes it unlawful for an employer to enquire about the health of an applicant for a job until a job offer has been made, unless the questions are specifically related to an intrinsic function of the work.



## **Implementation of PSED at Sketchley Hill Primary School:**

**Sketchley Hill Primary School is an LA maintained school.**

### ***Leicestershire County Council equality definition and objectives:***

“Education should prepare people for life in the wider community and must help all people to develop attitudes and ways of behaving which are appropriate to living in a society which wishes to eradicate racial prejudice and the social scars it produces. We, therefore, recognising that Leicestershire is a pluralist society and part of a country of many cultures, and believing that all pupils and students across the county should be given an appropriate knowledge and awareness of the variety of cultures which make up our society, identify the major objectives of developing the education service in a multicultural society as: -

- to prepare all pupils to live and work harmoniously and with equality of opportunity in that society
- to build upon the strengths of cultural diversity in that society
- to define and combat racism and any discriminatory practices within the educational service to which it gives rise
- to meet appropriately the particular educational need of all people, having regard to their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or historical attachment”

### ***Sketchley Hill Primary School Single Equality Aim:***

**The Governing Body of Sketchley Hill Primary School will seek to ensure that discrimination does not take place against anyone, either staff or pupil, on the grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins.**

### ***The school aims:***

Sketchley Hill Primary School believes that all pupils have the right to the best education we can provide, with access to the full range of educational activities.

Sketchley Hill Primary School believes that all staff, teaching and support, have the right to equal opportunities of employment and will not be discriminated against as a result of their gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins.

Sketchley Hill Primary School does not tolerate any form of racism or discriminatory behaviour and will act immediately to deal with and prevent any further incidents.

Sketchley Hill Primary School promotes a culture of fairness and justice to all.

Sketchley Hill Primary School aims to promote positive social attitudes and respect for all.

Sketchley Hill Primary School are committed to equality, justice and recognition of the unique value of every member of the school community.

Sketchley Hill Primary School strive to develop pupils who are confident, strong and self-affirming and who are receptive and generous towards other identities and cultures.

Sketchley Hill Primary School will not permit anyone, either staff or pupil, to subject another to harassment or to create an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Sketchley Hill Primary School will not allow behaviour which violates another's dignity.

Sketchley Hill Primary School celebrates the cultural diversity of our community and show respect for all members of our community.

***The Governing Body:***

The Governing Body will ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school and will seek to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form a barrier to learning.

They are committed to preparing the pupils of Sketchley Hill for life in a multicultural society and are totally opposed to racism and all other forms of oppressive behaviour.

The Governing Body will ensure that the curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for all individuals and cultural groups. We will encourage the pupils to explore fully the origins and differences of all religions, nationalities and ethnicities in order to develop their better understanding of the world wide community.

The Governing Body will ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide equal opportunities for everyone to achieve their potential regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality.

The Governing Body will ensure that people with disabilities are not discriminated against and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the school environment gives equal access to people with disabilities.

The Governors recognise that it is vital that all staff, teaching and non-teaching, understand the need for the promotion of equality in education. They will seek to ensure that suitable training and support is given to members of the school staff to fulfil their professional duties in line with school policy.

The Governing Body will be sensitive to and support all cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds of the school staff.

The School will record any incidents of racist behaviour and will report the number and nature of any incidents to the Governing Body.

***The Headteacher:***

The Headteacher will ensure that the Single Equality Policy is adhered to throughout the management, curriculum and ethos of the school community.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are aware of the school policy and that all staff apply the guidelines fairly in all situations.

The Headteacher will ensure that the school curriculum promotes respect for other cultures, religions and nationalities and will ensure that all classroom resources and materials reflect the diverse nature of the school community and have respect for the sensitivities of all members of the class.

The Headteacher will ensure that all appointments made to the school will have given due regard to the policy and that no-one is discriminated against on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic or national origins.

The Headteacher will have strategies in place to deal with any incident and recognises that these may take many forms including verbal or physical acts, rejection, unwelcome and negative comments.

The Headteacher will treat all incidents of unfair treatment and any racist or discriminatory incidents with due seriousness. The Headteacher will present a termly report to the Governing Body on the nature and number of any such incidents.

***School Staff will:***

- accept that this is a whole school issue and support the Single Equality Policy and procedures
- make known any queries or training requirements
- know how to deal with incidents of concern, and how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping
- be aware of the procedures for reporting incidents of racism, harassment or other forms of discrimination
- ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity
- keep themselves up to date with relevant legislation and attend training and information events organised by the school or LA
- ensure that pupils from all groups are included in all activities and have full access to the curriculum
- promote equality and diversity through teaching and through relations with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community

***Pupils will:***

- be made aware of any relevant part of the scheme, appropriate to age and ability
- be expected to act in accordance with any relevant part of the scheme
- experience a curriculum and environment which is respectful of diversity and difference and prepares them well for life in a diverse society
- understand the importance of reporting prejudiced based bullying/bullying/incidents
- ensure the peer support programme within the school promotes understanding and supports pupils who are experiencing discrimination.

***Monitoring and review:***

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the Single Equality Policy and for ensuring its effectiveness in the daily life of the school community.

The monitoring process will include:

- reviewing all school appointments to ensure the policy has been fairly applied
- requiring the Headteacher to present a termly report to the Governors on any incidents covered by the Policy
- monitoring the progress of pupils of protected characteristics
- taking into serious consideration any complaints regarding equal opportunities from parents/carers, staff or pupils and the wider school community
- monitoring all school policies to ensure that they are fairly applied to all staff, pupils and the wider school community

When necessary the Governing Body will initiate an investigation into any reported incidents and will inform the LA of any concerns raised.

All such actions of the Governing Body will be recorded appropriately.