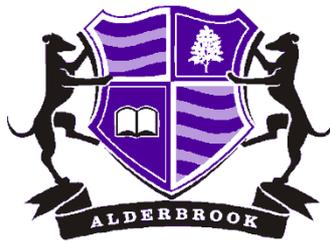


Alderbrook School



Equality Policy

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Overview of changes to be reflected in this updated policy

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all previous equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Discrimination Act and Sex Discrimination Act. It also provides some changes about which schools need to be aware. (See publication for DfE The Equality Act 2010 and Schools May 2014. Another review of this advice was due before April 2016 – so far this has not been published)

Key points

Introduction of a new single equality duty to replace the previous three separate duties. This includes new specific duties, which are less bureaucratic and more light-touch than previous duties, requiring schools to publish equality information and objectives. The Equality Act 2010 provides a single, consolidated source of discrimination law, covering all the types of discrimination that are unlawful. It simplifies the law by removing anomalies and inconsistencies that had developed over time in the existing legislation, and it extends the protection from discrimination in certain areas.

As far as schools are concerned, for the most part, the effect of the new law is the same as it has been in the past – meaning that schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against students because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Protection is now extended to students who are pregnant or undergoing gender reassignment. However, schools that are already complying with the law should not find major differences in what they need to do.

The exceptions to the discrimination provisions for schools that existed under previous legislation – such as the content of the curriculum, collective worship and admissions to single-sex schools and schools of a religious character, are all replicated in the new act. However, there are some changes that will have an impact on schools as follows:

Health related questions for job applicants

- It is now unlawful for employers to ask health-related questions of applicants before job offer, unless the questions are specifically related to an intrinsic function of the work. This means that schools should no longer, as a matter of course, require job applicants to complete a generic health questionnaire as part of the application procedure. Schools are advised to review their existing practices to ensure they are complying with both the Health Standards Regulations and Section 60 of the Equality Act.

Protection in schools

- It is now unlawful to discriminate against a student undergoing gender reassignment.
- It is now unlawful to discriminate against a student who is pregnant or has recently had a baby.

Victimisation

- It is now unlawful to victimise a child for anything done in relation to the act by their parent / carer or sibling

Positive action

- New Positive Action provisions will allow schools to target measures that are designed to alleviate disadvantages experienced by, or to meet the particular needs of, students with particular protected characteristics. Such measures will need to be a proportionate way of achieving the relevant aim – for example providing special catch-up classes for Roma children or a project to engage specifically with alienated Asian boys. Previously it might have been unlawful discrimination to exclude children who were not from these groups

Auxiliary Aids

- Extending the reasonable adjustment duty to require schools to provide auxiliary aids and services to disabled students. Following the recent consultation on implementation and approach, this duty was introduced in September 2012.

Equality Policy

Equality of opportunity at Alderbrook School, as defined by the Equality Act (2010), is based on the following core values:

- The ethos of the school supports the development of self-respect and self-esteem in all students, staff and the community that it serves.
- We place a high value on diversity and treat every member of the school as an individual. In this respect we aim to meet the needs of all, taking account of gender, gender reassignment, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, ability, disability, pregnancy or maternity and social circumstance.
- Alderbrook School is opposed to all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Aims of the Equality Policy

- The school aims to provide equality and excellence for all in order to promote the highest possible standards.
- High expectations of all students, encouraging them to become considerate and independent, taking responsibility for their words and actions.
- A culture of self-respect and respect for others.
- Promote equality by recognising and celebrating the differences between people.
- To foster a community of students who are well prepared for life in a diverse community.

Objectives

- Provide a safe and secure environment where language or behaviour that is potentially damaging to any minority group is not tolerated.
- To work in partnership with students, parents and the community to avoid and challenge stereotypical views of society and develop a sense of citizenship in all students.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Governors are responsible for ensuring:

- The school complies with current equality legislation.
- Making sure this policy is properly implemented
- Assigning a named governor – the named Governor for Alderbrook school is Mr Peter Johnson

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring:

- The policy is readily available, that governors, staff, students and parents/carers know about it.
- The procedures in the policy are followed.
- Regular information for staff and governors is produced about the policy and how it is working.
- Training for staff and governors on the policy.
- Make sure all staff fulfil their responsibilities and receive training and support for this.
- Take appropriate action in cases of harassment and discrimination.

All School Staff are responsible for:

- Promoting an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the classroom.
- Modelling good practices, dealing with discriminatory incidents, recognise and tackle bias and stereotyping.
- Promoting equality and avoiding discrimination against anyone.
- Keeping up to date with the law on discrimination, taking training and learning opportunities.

Visitors and Contractors are responsible for:

- Following our expectations regarding equality.

Responsibility for overseeing equality practices in the school lies with a named member of staff (Dr Janette Smith) and governor (Mr Peter Johnson). Responsibilities include:

- Co-ordination and monitoring work on equality issues.
- Dealing with and monitoring reports of harassment (including racist and homophobic incidents).
- Monitoring the progress and attainment of potentially vulnerable groups of students.
- Monitoring attendance of potentially vulnerable groups of students.
- Monitoring exclusions of potentially vulnerable groups of students.

Review of information

The school holds data about students in relation to their gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, age, ability, disability, and social circumstance. In respect of the census return, we are aware that there will be some categories of disability which do not appear in the data e.g. HIV/AIDS or cancer. We will only be able to obtain this information if it is shared by the parent/carer.

Assessing impact

The policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed by staff and governors to ensure that it is effective in eliminating discrimination, promoting access and participation, equality and good relations between different groups, and that it does not disadvantage any particular sections of the community.

Any pattern in inequality found as a result of impact assessment will be used to inform future planning and decision making. The named member of staff and governor will monitor specific outcomes.

The Headteacher will provide monitoring reports for review by the Governing body termly (or as requested). This policy links to other policies and in general the principles of equality will apply to all other school policies.

Concerns or Complaints

In the first instance a senior member of staff should be contacted. If issues or concerns remains unresolved these should be raised in accordance with the Complaints Policy.

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Equality Policy - Appendix 1 School Historic Context (from census data of relevant year)

Context of Alderbrook School	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Staff (teaching & support)	161	172	175
Staff Gender			
Male	22.4%	25.6%	24%
Female	77.6%	74.4%	76%
Staff Ethnicity			
White British	85.7%	82.6%	81.1%
Other Ethnic Group	14.3%	17.4%	18.9%
Disability	1.2%	2.3%	2.2%
Students on Roll	1268	1325	1381
Gender			
Male Students	51.1%	50.1%	29.5%
Female Students	48.9%	49.9%	50.5%
Ethnicity			
Students who are White British	70.4%	71.5%	69.7%
Other Ethnic Group	29.6%	28.5%	30.3%
Additional Needs			
Students on the SEN Register	21.8%*	21.3%	24.4%
Specific Learning Difficulty	1%	5%	5.7%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1.6%	5.5%	6.2%
Severe Learning Difficulty	0%	0%	0%

Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	0%	0%	0%
Social, Emotional Mental Health	3.2%	3.5%	4.5%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0%	0%	0%
Hearing Impairment	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%
Visual Impairment	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Physical Disability	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	2.5%	3.5%	3.9%
Other Difficulty/Disability	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%
English as an additional language	3.9%	3.4%	6.9%
Religion or Belief			
Christian	47.3%	46.7%	43.6%
Muslim	10.6%	10.7%	12.3%
Other Religions	12.3%	11.3%	11.2%
No faith or not disclosed	29.8%	31.3%	32.9%
Socio Economic Factors			
Looked After Children	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Students Eligible for Free School meals	6.5%	6.4%	6.7%
Student Premium Children	16.1%	16.1%	16.3%

***Some students have multiple additional needs and are counted in more than one category.**