



# Newlands CofE School Federation

A partnership of Shere and Clandon Schools



## Equality Information and Objectives

### 1. Aims

The Federation aims to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty and protects people from discrimination
- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: [The Equality Act 2010 and schools](#).

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils and parents
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the Headteacher.

The equality link governor is Trevor Skerritt. They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality every term and other relevant staff members to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they are familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full Governing Body regarding any issues

The Headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The designated member of staff for equality will:

- Support the Headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Meet with the equality link governor every term to raise and discuss any issues
- Support the Headteacher in identifying any staff training needs and deliver training as necessary

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

#### 4. Eliminating discrimination

The Newlands CofE Federation is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act – for example, during meetings.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction and all staff receive refresher training every September.

The school has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues and an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

#### 5. Advancing equality of opportunity

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the Federation aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school societies)

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty the Federation will analyse attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing, to

determine strengths and areas for improvement, and implement actions in response to these findings.

## 6. Fostering good relations

The Federation aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, citizenship and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics which helps inform and develop our approach

## 7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The Federation ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The Federation always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the relevant school considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays
- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities
- Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls

The Federation keeps a written record (known as an Equality Impact Assessment) to show we have actively considered our equality duties and asked ourselves relevant questions. This is recorded at the same time as the risk assessment when planning school trips and activities. The record is completed by the member of staff organising the activity and is stored electronically with the completed risk assessment.

## 8. Equality objectives

### Objective 1

Increase the rate of progress of disadvantaged children at risk of underachievement so that their progress matches that of other non-disadvantaged pupils with similar starting points.

### Objective 2

Have in place a reasonable adjustment agreement for all staff with disabilities by July 2025, to meet their needs better and make sure any disadvantages they experience are addressed.

### Objective 3

Increase the attendance of GRT pupils.

### Objective 4

Train all members of staff and governors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by the beginning of the next academic year (2025-26). Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements.

### Objective 5

Include the 'Two Ticks' positive about people with disabilities symbol on all job adverts, application forms and information by January 2025 to help address the under-representation of people with disabilities in the school workforce.

## 9. Review

The Governing Body first adopted his policy in September 2021. It will be reviewed biennially as necessary.

The Resources Committee is responsible for the review of this policy.

Date of last review: Summer 2024

Date for next review: Summer 2026