



## Single Equality Policy

***The ultimate aim of this policy is to provide the safeguarding of children as defined by the Woodside Academy's statement on safeguarding children***

### 1. Aims

- Take positive and proactive steps to identify areas of potential inequality before they have the chance to make an impact
- Make changes to ensure that any areas of potential inequality are eliminated
- This policy will underpin all other policies within our Academy
- This policy should be read in conjunction with our Special Educational Needs and Disability and Anti-bullying policies

**Lead Member of Staff:** Miss Emma Metcalfe (Assistant Principal)

### 2. Background Information

- The Equality Act 2010, which came into force on 1 October 2010, replaces the existing anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, this policy therefore brings together our previous policies on Equal Opportunities, Race, Disability and Gender and now protects children, staff and parent/carers and service users from discrimination, harassment and victimisation based on all Protected Characteristics (Race, Disability, Sex, Religion or belief, Sexual orientation and Gender reassignment)
- NB: Age is now also a protected characteristic but does not apply to children in Academies/Schools. It does however still apply to staff and parent/carers.

### 3. Legal Definitions

#### Unlawful Discrimination

- Unlawful discrimination is defined in the Act as:
- Direct discrimination – treating a person less favourably on prohibited grounds (gender, gender identity, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, socio-economic status) than another would be treated in comparable circumstances, where the treatment cannot be objectively justified (e.g. by a genuine occupational requirement)

- Indirect discrimination – when a rule, condition or requirement, which applies equally to everyone, has a disproportionately adverse effect on people from a particular group (i.e. due to race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, gender, marital status, gender identity), and there is no objective justification for the rule
- Discrimination arising from disability – This occurs when a disabled person is treated unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and this unfavourable treatment cannot be justified. Treatment can be justified if it can be shown that it is intended to meet a legitimate objective in a fair, balanced and reasonable way. If this can be shown then the treatment will be lawful. This may be discrimination arising from disability unless it can be justified.
- Failure to make reasonable adjustments (for disabled people)
- Discrimination by association or perception – the 2010 Act extends the scope of the legislation to protect people who ‘associate’ with others with the protected characteristics, for instance people who are related to or who care for someone who is disabled. Protection includes perception (eg discrimination based on the belief that someone is gay, disabled or has a particular belief)

### **Harassment**

- Harassment is defined in the Act as:
- Any unwanted conduct that violates people’s dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. This definition is limited to anti-discrimination legislation and therefore only applies to harassment on grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief or age.

### **Victimisation**

- Victimisation is defined in the Act as:
- Treating people less favourably because they have made a complaint or intend to make a complaint about discrimination or harassment, or have given evidence or intend to give evidence relating to a complaint about discrimination or harassment.

### **Burden of Proof**

- The Act states that once an individual can show that there is an issue of potential discrimination, the burden of proof shifts to the employer to defend the case and show that the reason for difference in treatment is justifiable and not discriminatory.

### **Vicarious Liability**

- The Act states that employers are responsible for the discriminatory actions of their employees where such action have been carried out during the course of their duties. The only defence for employers is to show that

- they have done everything reasonably practicable to prevent an employee committing an unlawful act.
- In practice, Courts and tribunals have regarded the following as 'reasonable steps'
  - Publishing a comprehensive equality policy
  - Clearly communicating the policy to all staff
  - Providing awareness training on the potential for, and implications of, discrimination
  - Training staff in good practice relevant to their jobs (e.g. recruitment, record keeping, monitoring etc)

### **Personal Liability**

- The act states that where an employer can show that appropriate steps have been taken to avoid discrimination, it is likely that the discriminator will be personally liable in the law.
- Single Equality Duty
- The 2010 Act introduces a new 'single' equality duty which brings together the three existing duties (race, disability and gender) and extends the duty to gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. This new duty requires all public bodies to have 'due regard' to the need to:
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimization and any other conduct that is prohibited
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it
  - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it

### **Single Equality Action Plan**

This document brings together all planned actions for meeting and implementing statutory duties in relation to race, disability, gender, sexual orientation and community cohesion and therefore includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment in those areas. It will be reviewed every three years.

### **Disability**

This section should be read in conjunction with the Academy's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

### **Definition of Disability**

- The 2010 Act abandons the previous list of capacities and defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.
- The Act allows disabled pupils to be treated more favourably than non-disabled pupils and in some cases requires this to be done, by making reasonable adjustments to put pupils on a level footing with those without a disability

#### **4. Vision and Principles**

At Woodside Academy, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all children, staff and parent/ carers receiving services from the Academy, irrespective of:

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Race, colour, ethnic or national origins, faith, religion or those who need support to learn English as an additional language
- Disability/health/medical or special educational needs
- Age
- Attainment including those who are gifted and talented
- Socio-economic background
- Being in public care
- Attendance concerns
- Risk of disaffection or exclusion
- Vulnerability
- Changing Academies frequently

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the Academy feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in Academy life. We believe that all pupils should have equal access to opportunities regardless of ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, racial or ethnic group. The achievement of all children will be monitored and we will use this data to support children, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching and learning. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Woodside Academy, we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

- In our Academy, the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child are important. We follow the necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all our children into account when planning for teaching, learning and pastoral support. At Woodside Academy, we do not take educational inclusion and equality for granted. We constantly identify those children who may be missing out, difficult to engage, or feeling in some way to be apart from what we seek to provide. This practice also allows us to promote tolerance and understanding in a diverse society. This approach can only add to the Academy's overall aim of raising standards.

#### **5. Objectives**

- To face equality issues openly, positively and effectively
- To promote attitudes and values that will ensure there is no discriminatory behaviour, prejudice or harassment
- To promote the principles of fairness and justice for all
- To build a harmonious society where community cohesion is underpinned by mutual respect, tolerance and good relationships

- To enable all to succeed and to overcome the barriers that get in the way
- To encourage all to see themselves and others as equal citizens
- To encourage self-confidence and self-esteem
- To ensure that teaching and learning promotes equality, celebrates diversity and promotes community cohesion
- To ensure appropriate training opportunities
- To ensure that within the Academy budget appropriate funding is provided to underpin this policy

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

- Promoting equality and raising the achievement of all children is the responsibility of the whole Academy. This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved and connected with the Academy so that everyone knows what is expected of them.

### **The Role of Governors**

- The Local Governing Body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the Academy is fully inclusive to children, and responsive to their needs based on race, gender and disability
- The Local Governing Body seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our Academy
- The Governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Academy's environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make Academy communications as inclusive as possible for parents/carers and children
- The Governors welcome all applications to join the Academy
- The Local Governing Body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our Academy

### **The Role of the Principal (or Senior Leader Responsible for Equality)**

- It is the Principal's role to implement the Academy's Equality Plan and is supported by the Local Governing Body in doing so
- It is the Principal's role to ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Policy, and that staff apply these guidelines fairly in all situations
- The Principal ensures that all recruitment selection panels give due regard to this policy, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities
- The Principal promotes the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of Academy life
- The Principal treats all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness

### **The Role of all Staff: Teaching and Associate**

- All staff will ensure that all children are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the Academy's Equality Policy and Plan
- All staff will strive to provide material that gives positive images and challenges stereotypical images
- All staff will challenge any incidents of discrimination, bullying, prejudice, racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the lead member of staff or Principal and record such incidents
- Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum

### **The role of children**

- Children will contribute to the development of the Equality Policy and Plan and be made aware how it applies to them. They will be encouraged to treat each other with respect and to report discriminatory incidents

### **The Role of Parents/Carers**

- Parents/carers will be consulted on the development of the Equality Policy and Scheme
- Take an active part in identifying barriers for the Academy community and informing the leadership team of actions that can be taken to eradicate these

### **Strategies to implement our Vision:**

- Teaching and learning
- Ensuring all learners have equal access to a rich, broad, balanced, inclusive and relevant curriculum that allows for a range of different learning styles
- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of children
- Monitor achievement data by gender, ethnicity, special educational needs, disability, Free School Meals etc. and action any gaps
- Take account of the achievement of all children when planning for future learning, Pupil Premium and setting challenging targets
- Ensure all children take a full and active role in Academy life, including the full range of extra-curricular activities in order to prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the Academy's population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice and promote the principles of fairness and justice for all
- Seek to involve all parent/carers in supporting their child's education
- Have high expectations of all the Academy community and help them fulfil their aspirations
- Provide opportunities for children to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures

- Recognize and value bilingualism
- Encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole Academy population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils

### **Disapplication and Modification**

As an Academy, we do not need to follow the National Curriculum. In areas we do follow it then the Academy can, where necessary, modify or dis-apply the National Curriculum and its assessment arrangements. Our Academy policy is to do this only in exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the child, parent/carer and Local Authority. The Academy makes every effort to meet the learning needs of all its children without recourse to disapplication or modification.

### **Training**

- The Academy supports inclusive practice by ensuring equality is an on-going focus for staff and director training

### **Funding**

- The Academy will allocate funding from the Academy budget together with additional funding to employ additional adults to support inclusion and equality
- The Academy will deploy funding to employ an Academy Community Team to support inclusion and equality
- The Academy will deploy a minimum of at least one additional adult in each class to enhance provision for inclusion and equality
- The Academy will deploy funding to support a range of pre-Academy, after Academy clubs and parents/carers training and facilities to enhance inclusion and equality

### **Admissions and Exclusions**

- Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate
- Exclusions will always be based on the Academy's Behaviour Policy. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with

### **Equal Opportunities for Staff**

- We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve
- We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment
- All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the Law. However we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the Academy reflects the diversity of our community
- Equality aspects are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Leadership Responsibilities or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination

## **8. Tackling Discrimination**

- All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a child's individual circumstances
- Incidents of discrimination, harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher or member of Leadership Team as required
- All racist incidents are reported to the Assistant Principal who reports them to the local authority on a termly basis. (A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as: 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person')

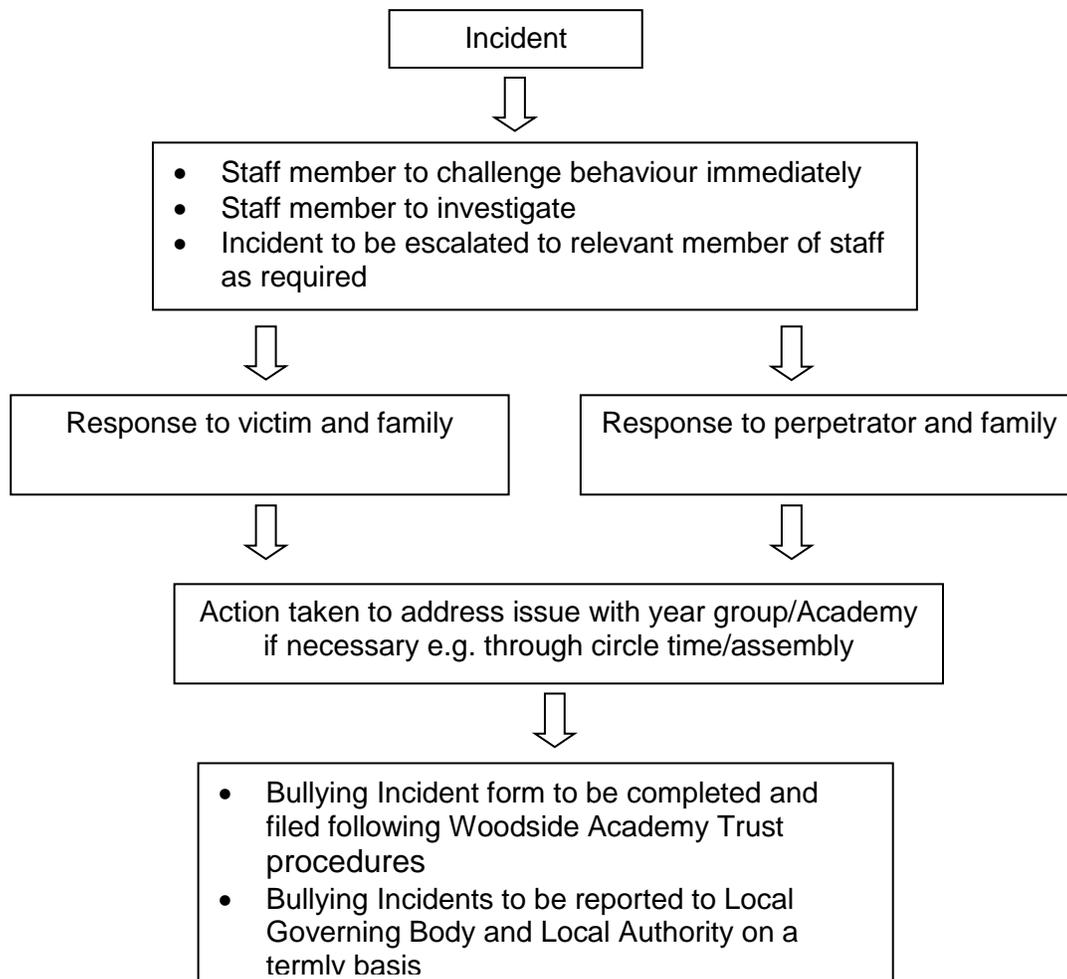
### **Types of Incidents**

Types of discriminatory, harassment or bullying incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender etc
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia
- Bringing discriminatory material into the Academy
- Verbal abuse and threats
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender or sexual orientation etc
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation etc

This list is non-exhaustive.

## Responding to and Reporting Discriminatory Incidents



### 9. Monitoring

The Academy's pupil tracking system will be used to track the progress and attainment of children and groups of children to obtain information on whether our equality policy and practice is effective. It is the responsibility of our Local Governing Body to monitor the effectiveness of this Equal Opportunities policy. The Local Governing Body can do this by:

- monitoring the progress of children of minority groups and comparing it to the progress made by other children in the Academy
- monitoring the staff appointment process, so that no-one applying for a post at this Academy is discriminated against
- monitoring the Academy behaviour and exclusions policy, so those children from minority groups are not unfairly treated
- taking into serious consideration any complaints regarding equal opportunity issues from parent/carers, staff or children

### 10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Staff and Governors, on a three yearly basis, will review this policy unless circumstances demand an earlier review.

This policy was adopted on the 30.6.2017. It will be reviewed by the end of Summer 2 2019/2020 unless circumstances demand an earlier review.