

Brighter Futures Academy Trust

Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan



Name of Policy Writer/Amendments	Date Written/Amended	Next Review Date
EducateHR Ltd	April 2013	November 2013
L Johnson	July 2013	July 2014
L. Johnson	May 2014	July 2015
C. Howarth	November 2015	October 2016

Contents	Page
Introduction.....	3
Purpose and scope.....	3
Our Academy.....	3
Guiding principles	4
Action plans and objectives.....	6
Roles and responsibilities.....	6
The curriculum.....	6
Ethos and organisation	7
Addressing prejudice and bullying.....	7
Religious observance	8
Staff development and training.....	8
Commissioning and procurement	8
Equality Impact Assessments.....	8
Other school policies.....	8
Publishing the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan.....	8
Breaches of the Single Equality Scheme	8
Monitoring and review	9
Appendix 1.....	10
Single Equality Scheme Action Plan 2013 – 2016.....	10
Planned actions	11
Appendix 2.....	12
Summary of equality legislation for schools.....	12
Introduction.....	13
Meeting these duties.....	13
Public Sector Equality Duty	15
Socio-economic duty.....	15
Equality terminology.....	15
Protected characteristics	15
Appendix 3	18
Examples of school activities contributing to equalities best practice	18

Introduction

This Single Equality Scheme brings together the school's approach for promoting equality in our policies and procedures and in our day-to-day interactions with the whole school community. It outlines the commitment of the staff, students and governors to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all. We will treat everyone the same, and also understand and tackle the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of students in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community.

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between groups

We welcome our responsibility to promote community cohesion and are committed to developing good relations across different cultures, ethnic, religious (and non-religious) and socio-economic groups.

We have incorporated these priorities into our Single Equality Scheme.

Purpose and scope

Our Single Equality Scheme and action plan (Appendix 1) covers a three-year period from 2013 to 2016. It integrates our statutory duties in relation to race, disability and gender and the promotion of community cohesion (See Appendix 2 for the legal framework). The duties cover the wider school community including governors, staff, pupils and parents and carers.

The Scheme also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, sexual orientation and age and therefore includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment across all groups of protected characteristics.

Our Single Equality Scheme and action plan enables us to achieve a framework for action which ensures that we meet our responsibilities and duties in an inclusive way.

We will continue to meet our statutory duties by setting equality objectives and reporting annually on the progress of our Single Equality Scheme and action plan.

Our Academy

Our academies/schools are based in Calderdale. A small proportion of our pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds in each of the schools.

In 2 of our schools, we have a high proportion of children/learners e.g.:

- with a Statement of Educational Needs
- disability
- autistic spectrum disorder
- free school meals
- speech and language difficulties

Guiding principles

In meeting the duties described above we are adopting seven guiding principles, adapted from those chosen by the DCSF in their Single Equality Scheme.

Principle 1: All members of the school community are of equal value

All learners and potential learners and their parents and carers are of equal value and we strive to make the best possible provision for all:

- whether or not they are disabled
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation and faith, national origin or national status
- whatever their gender/gender identity or sexual identity
- irrespective of other factors such as age, income, family circumstances or where they live

Principle 2: We recognise and respect diversity

We know that treating people equally can mean treating them differently. Different people have different needs and treating them all the same can lead to some people being disadvantaged because their needs are not met. Our policies, practices and programmes will not discriminate, but will take account of differences in life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people face, in relation to:

- disability, so that reasonable adjustments are made
- ethnicity, culture and religion, so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised
- gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, so that the different needs and experiences of boys and girls, women and men are recognised
- factors such as age, income, family circumstances or where people live, so that different needs and experiences are recognised

Principle 3: We value our staff

We value our staff for their ability and potential to help us make the best possible provision for the children in our school. Our policies and programmes benefit all members of staff in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development:

- whether or not they are disabled
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation and faith, national origin or national status
- whatever their gender, gender identity or sexual orientation
- irrespective of other factors such as age, income, family circumstances or where they live.

Principle 4: We foster positive attitudes and relationships

We know that equalities is not simply about protecting the potentially vulnerable. We believe that all children may be disadvantaged by the holding of prejudicial views and we seek to promote good relationships between all groups. Our policies and programmes promote:

- positive attitudes towards disabled people, and good relations between disabled and non-disabled people
- positive interaction and good relations between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation and faith, and national origin or national status
- mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, women and men, and people of different sexual orientation
- mutual respect and good relations between people from different age groups, with different income or family circumstances or who live in different places

Principle 5: We feel that the community as a whole should benefit

We recognise our role in promoting community cohesion, and actively encourage the participation in public life of all learners in our school. Our policies and programmes benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater cohesion, and greater participation in public life of:

- disabled and non-disabled people alike
- people of a wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- women as well as men, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as heterosexual people
- people from different age groups, with different income or family circumstances or who live in different places

Principle 6: We are proactive in addressing inequalities

We are proactive in our efforts to identify and minimise existing barriers or inequalities. In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts, our policies and programmes maximise positive impacts by addressing, reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist between:

- disabled and non-disabled people
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- boys and girls, women and men, and people of different sexual orientation
- people from different age groups, with different income or family circumstances or who live in different places.

Principle 7: We consult and involve all groups affected by our policies

We seek the views of all groups affected by the policies and work of our school, and strive to involve them in policy review. We recognise that it is particularly important to involve those who in the past may have been excluded or disadvantaged, and who may continue to face barriers:

- disabled people
- people of minority ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- women as well as men, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as heterosexual people
- people who face challenges because of their age group, income, family circumstances or where they live

Action plans and objectives

In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we formulate specific and measurable equality objectives based on the guiding principles above that take into account local and national priorities and issues as appropriate to ensure equality in terms of:

- disability
- ethnicity
- gender and gender identity
- sexual orientation
- religion and belief
- age
- socio-economic circumstances

These objectives are outlined in our Single Equality Scheme Action Plan (Appendix 1). We keep these objectives under review and ensure that our practical priorities, policies and procedures promote equality.

Roles and responsibilities

- **Trust Board/Executive Head Teacher** – The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this Scheme and action plan. They will delegate a trustee/director with specific responsibility for this Scheme. They will review the Scheme and action plan on a yearly basis.
- **Head of School**–The Head of School is responsible for the implementation of the Scheme and will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that they are given necessary training and support. The Head of School will report progress to the Board of Directors and will ensure that the senior leadership team is kept up to date with any development affecting the Scheme or actions arising from it.
- **Senior Leadership Team** – The senior leadership team will have responsibility for supporting other staff in implementing the Scheme and provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to the Scheme. Along with the Head of School they will provide advice and support in dealing with any incidents/issues.
- **Staff** – The staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for students with additional needs and maintain a good awareness of equalities issues. Staff will be involved in the development of the Scheme and how it relates to them.
- **Parents/Carers** – Parents and carers will be involved in the development of the Scheme and be encouraged to support it and to attend any meetings and activities in relation to the Scheme and action plan.

The curriculum

We will ensure that curriculum planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross-curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality and diversity. All staff ensure the classroom is an inclusive environment in which pupils feel their contributions are valued.

Positive steps are taken to include pupils who may otherwise be marginalized. We take account of pupils' cultural backgrounds, experiences and starting points and are responsive to pupils' different learning styles. All pupils are regularly consulted about their learning.

The schools recognise and value all forms of achievement. We will monitor and analyse pupil performance by ethnicity, gender, disability and special educational need and social background. Any disparities which are identified will be addressed through targeted curriculum planning, teaching and support.

Ethos and organisation

We ensure that our guiding principles listed above apply to the full range of our policies, procedures and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- pupils' progress, attainment and achievement
- pupils' personal development, welfare and well-being
- teaching styles and strategies
- admissions and attendance
- staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- care, guidance and support
- behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- partnership working with parents, carers and guardians
- working with the wider community
- participation of groups in wider school activities
- preparing all members of the school community for positively contributing to a diverse society

Addressing prejudice and bullying

Clear procedures are in place so that all forms of bullying and harassment are dealt with promptly, firmly and consistently. All forms of bullying and harassment are recorded, monitored and dealt with in line with relevant school policies.

We are opposed to all forms of prejudice that stand in the way of fulfilling our legal duties for all aspects of equality:

- prejudices around disability and special educational needs
- prejudices around racism and xenophobia, including those that are directed towards religious groups and communities, for example antisemitism and Islamophobia, and those that are directed against travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum
- prejudices reflecting sexism and homophobia

There is guidance in the staff handbook on how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with and all staff are trained to deal effectively with bullying, racist incidents, racial harassment and prejudice and are offered support in handling such matters.

We keep a record of prejudice-related incidents and where requested can provide a report about the numbers, types and seriousness of these incidents and how they are dealt with.

Religious observance

We respect the religious beliefs and practices of all staff, pupils and their parents and carers and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

All staff are offered the opportunity to engage in appropriate development to ensure they can support the achievement of our Guiding Principles.

Commissioning and procurement

We are directly responsible for the purchase of goods and services. We ensure that we purchase goods and services from organisations that comply with equality legislation. This will be a significant factor in any tendering process.

Equality Impact Assessments

We undertake equality impact assessments to identify the impact or effect of our policies, procedures and programmes on the whole school community. Where negative impacts are identified we take steps to deal with this to ensure the equity of services to all.

Other school policies

A number of our other school policies directly link into and inform our Single Equality Scheme. These include:

- the school development plan
- the school inclusion and SEN policy
- the Accessibility plan
- the Bullying and Harassment policy
- the Racist Incident reporting protocol

Publishing the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan

This policy and plan will be published on our website and hard copies available from the school offices. We will ensure that the content of this policy is known to all directors/governors and staff and as appropriate to all pupils and their parents and carers.

In addition all directors/governors and staff will have access to a range of resources that discuss and explain the concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion.

Breaches of the Single Equality Scheme

Breaches of this Scheme will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the executive headteacher and Board of Directors.

Monitoring and review

In line with legislative requirements we will report annually on our progress and performance covering protected characteristics, including access to the curriculum, physical access and access to information in one annual report.

This Scheme will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on students, staff, parents/carers and all the different stakeholders that make up our school community.

Appendix 1: Single Equality Scheme Action Plan 2013 – 2016

<i>R = Race, D = Disability, G = Gender, SO = Sexual Orientation, A = Age, R/B = Religion or Belief CC = Community Cohesion.</i>							Planned Outcome	Planned Actions	Timescale	To Be Actioned By	Monitored by
R	D	G	SO	A	R/B	CC					
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	All staff are aware of the Single Equality Scheme and have awareness of their responsibilities and duties to follow it.	Raise awareness of the Scheme at staff meetings with all staff.	Autumn 2015 and ongoing for new staff in school	HoS/DHoS	Head of School Reports to Governors, Governor meetings.
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Stakeholders are aware of the Equality Scheme.	Published on the school website, reference to on newsletters, parent/carer meetings.	Annually before first parents evening and during parents evenings	HoS/DHoS	Attendance and feedback from parent/carer meetings. Governor questionnaire indicates an awareness of the Scheme.
√	√	√					Monitor and evaluate attainment and progress of all pupils with specific reference to groups with different characteristics. Including ethnicity (if applicable to the cohort), gender, SEN, Pupil Premium.	Act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils or specific groups.	Identified through pupil progress meetings and actioned after each	HoS/DHoS	Head of School Reports to Governors, Governor meetings.
<p>Include all your identified priorities in this table. The issues identified should have a planned outcome – one that will make a difference.</p>											

<i>R = Race, D = Disability, G = Gender, SO = Sexual Orientation, A = Age, R/B = Religion or Belief, CC = Community Cohesion</i>							Planned Outcome	Planned Actions	Timescale	To Be Actioned By	Monitored by
R	D	G	SO	A	R/B	CC					
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	To ensure that a diverse range of pupils are making a positive contribution to the life of the school.	Ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to school life: school council, play leaders, school performances, house team leaders	Start of the year and reviewed termly - Ongoing	HoS/DHoS	Governors and parent/carer questionnaire indicates an awareness of the Scheme.
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Participation and engagement in extracurricular activities reflects a diverse range of pupils.	Monitor participation in extracurricular activities. Consider ways to increase participation of any group is under represented as identified by monitoring. Monitor attendance patterns and report to governors.	Extended services lead evaluation after each cycle of clubs - Ongoing	HoS/DHoS	Head of School reports to Governors Grid Maker
√	√				√	√	Continue to increase pupils awareness of different communities.	Celebrate cultural events throughout the year e.g. Divali, Eid, Christmas etc. Visit different religious buildings e.g. Church, Mosque, Sikh temple etc.	Annual plan developed - Ongoing	HoS/DHoS	All staff to raise awareness through; RE/PSHCE lesson and work, assemblies. Head of School reports to Governors Grid Maker
<p>Include all your identified priorities in this table. The issues identified should have a planned outcome – one that will make a difference.</p>											

<i>R = Race, D = Disability, G = Gender, SO = Sexual Orientation, A = Age, R/B = Religion or Belief, CC = Community Cohesion</i>							Planned Outcome	Planned Actions	Timescale	To Be Actioned By	Monitored by
R	D	G	SO	A	R/B	CC					
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	To ensure that all staff are aware of procedures to report racist/homophobic/bullying incidents.	Raise awareness of the Scheme and reporting systems at staff meetings with all staff.	Immediately and ongoing for new staff in school	HoS/DHoS	Head of School Reports to Governors, Governor meetings.
√	√	√	√	√	√	√	To ensure that the school's procedures for dealing with bullying/harassment are clear and known by all stakeholders.	Review the Bullying and Harassment policy through consultation with stakeholders . Publish reviewed policy.	During anti bullying week with groups of different stakeholders	HoS/DHoS	Head of School reports to Governors
							To conduct equality impact assessments for any new or substantially amended policies.	Review all policies using the Scheme content to ensure equality. Policy is referred to when planning new procedures and policies throughout school.	Ongoing	HoS/DHoS	Head of School reports to Governors, Governor meetings.
<p>Include all your identified priorities in this table. The issues identified should have a planned outcome – one that will make a difference.</p>											

Appendix 2: Summary of Equality Legislation for schools

Introduction

This Appendix summarises the requirements of race, disability and gender equality legislation, and the duty to promote community cohesion. It also addresses the legislation relating to age, sexual orientation and religion and belief.

Every aspect of school life is covered by the above equality duties, including for example:

For Pupils:

- admissions and attendance
- teaching and learning, timetabling, homework, trips, visits, sports, breaks and lunchtimes, exams, clubs and extracurricular activities, and curriculum development, planning and delivery
- behaviour, discipline and sanctions, exclusions (permanent and fixed term)
- welfare and well-being
- progress and attainment

Pupils are defined under the Equality Act 2010 as:

- prospective pupils (in relation to admissions arrangements)
- pupils at the school (including those absent or temporarily excluded)
- former pupils (if there is a continuing relationship based on them having been a pupil at the school)

For Staff:

- recruitment, selection, conditions of employment
- career progress, appraisal, CPD activities
- disciplinary, grievance, dismissal

The duties also apply to those using the services of the school, for example parents, and the wider community. The governing body carries the ultimate responsibility for implementing equality legislation.

Meeting these duties

Accessibility

There is specific disability legislation in relation to disabled pupils and accessibility which means schools must plan strategically over time to:

- increase access to the curriculum
- make improvements to the physical environment of the school to increase access;
- make written information accessible to pupils in a range of different ways

Schools must ensure that disabled pupils do not receive less favourable treatment and to do this the school has a duty to make reasonable adjustments.

Age, sexual orientation, religion and belief

Schools must not discriminate on the grounds of age, sexual orientation or religion and belief. Age is not a protected characteristic for the schools provision in terms of pupils.

Community cohesion

Schools have a responsibility to promote community cohesion, developing good relations across different cultures, ethnic, religious and non-religious and socio-economic groups. This duty also includes other differences such as for example in gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Disability equality

The general duty to promote disability equality is owed to all disabled people which means that schools must have due regard to:

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people
- eliminate unlawful discrimination
- eliminate disability related harassment
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life

Gender equality

The general duty to promote gender equality means that schools must have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and
- promote equality of opportunity between men and women, girls and boys

The duty also includes the need to consider actions to address the causes of any gender pay gap.

Transgender

Transgendered people are explicitly covered by the gender equality duty. The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender. Schools must respect the confidentiality of those seeking gender re-assignment and provide a supportive environment within the school community.

Race equality

The general duty to promote race equality means that schools must have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- promote equality of opportunity
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to maintained schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units. The Duty requires public bodies to demonstrate that they are taking action on equality in policymaking, the delivery of services and public sector employment. The duty requires public bodies to take steps not just to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, but also to actively promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. The duties also require schools to:

- publish information to demonstrate compliance with the Duty
- prepare and publish equality objectives

Where a school has 150 plus employees, data about these employees as well as pupil data will need to be published. In a school with fewer than 150 employees, only pupil related data will need to be published.

Socio-economic duty

A public sector duty applies to 'authorities' who, when making decisions of a strategic nature, must consider how to reduce the inequality of outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

Equality terminology

The definitions given below relate to the terminology of the Equality Act 2010 and to its particular provisions:

Protected characteristics

The Act protects people from discrimination and harassment based on the following 'protected characteristics':

- age
- disability.
- gender reassignment.
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity.
- race.
- religion or belief.
- sex.
- sexual orientation

Discrimination

Unlawful discrimination is defined in the Act as:

- direct discrimination (including discrimination based on perception or association).
- indirect discrimination.
- discrimination arising from disability.
- failure to make reasonable adjustments (for disabled people).

Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination occurs when you treat a person less favourably than you treat or would treat another person because of a protected characteristic. So a very basic example would be refusing to admit a child to a school as a pupil because of their race or only allowing male members of staff to drive the school minibuses. It is not possible to justify direct discrimination, so it will always be unlawful.

There are however exceptions to the schools provisions that allow, for example, single-sex schools to only admit pupils of one sex without this being unlawful direct discrimination. There are also limited circumstances in which an employer might be able to make a case for a genuine occupational requirement for a job. For example, a school may be able to restrict applications for a PE teacher from applicants of a specified gender in terms of the duties of the role.

In order for someone to show that they have been directly discriminated against, they must compare what has happened to them to the treatment a person without their protected characteristic is receiving or would receive. They do not need to find an actual person to compare their treatment with but can rely on a hypothetical person if they can show there is evidence that such a person would be treated differently.

Indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination occurs when you apply a provision, criterion or practice (PCP) in the same way for all people or for a particular group of people, but this has the effect of putting people sharing a protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage. It doesn't matter that you did not intend to disadvantage those with a particular protected characteristic in this way. What does matter is whether your action does or would disadvantage such people compared with others who do not share that characteristic.

'Disadvantage' is not defined in the Act but may be understood to mean that a reasonable person would consider that disadvantage has occurred. It can take many different forms, such as denial of an opportunity or choice, deterrence, rejection or exclusion. Indirect discrimination will occur if **all** the following four conditions are met:

1. you apply (or would apply) the provision, criterion or practice equally to all, including a person with a protected characteristic, and
2. the provision, criterion or practice puts or would put those sharing a protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage compared to others who do not share that characteristic, and
3. the provision, criteria, practice or rule puts or would put the particular person at a disadvantage, and
4. you cannot show that the provision, criteria of practice is justified as a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'

Positive action

Those with protected characteristics may be disadvantaged for social or economic reasons or for reasons to do with past or present discrimination. The Act contains provisions that enable schools to take action to tackle the particular disadvantage, different needs or disproportionately low participation of a for example a particular pupil group, provided certain conditions are met.

These are known as the positive action provisions and allow (but do not require) schools to take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils. Such action could include targeted provision, resources or putting in place additional or bespoke provision to benefit a particular disadvantaged pupil group.

Positive action is intended to be a measure that will allow schools to provide additional benefits to some pupils to address disadvantage and is not the same as positive discrimination. Positive discrimination would be providing preferential treatment for a particular disadvantaged pupil group that exceeded the positive action conditions. It is never unlawful to treat disabled pupils (or applicants) more favourably than non-disabled pupils (or applicants). That is, a school is permitted to positively discriminate in favour of disabled pupils (applicants).

‘Proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim’

To be legitimate the aim of the provision, criterion or practice must be legal and non-discriminatory and represent a real objective consideration. In the context of school education, examples of legitimate aims might include:

- Maintaining academic and other standards.
- Ensuring the health and safety and welfare of pupils.

Even if the aim is legitimate the means of achieving it must be proportionate. Proportionate means ‘appropriate and necessary’, but ‘necessary’ does not mean that the provision, criterion or practice is the only possible way of achieving the legitimate aim. Although the financial cost of using a less discriminatory approach cannot, by itself, provide a justification, cost can be taken into account as part of the school’s justification, if there are other good reasons for adopting the chosen practice.

Provision, criterion or practice (PCP)

These are not defined in the Act but can be interpreted widely and include:

- arrangements (for example, for deciding who to admit or in preparing for a school trip)
- the way that education, or access to any benefit, service or facility is offered or provided
- one-off decisions
- proposals or directions to do something in a particular way.

They may be written out formally or they may just have developed as the school worked out the best way of achieving what it wanted to do.

Reasonable adjustments

The reasonable adjustment duty requires steps to be taken to avoid disadvantage where a provision, criterion or practice puts disabled people at a substantial disadvantage. For pupils this duty is owed to existing pupils, applicants and, in limited circumstances, to disabled former pupils in relation to the following areas:

- deciding who is offered admission as a pupil
- the provision of education
- access to any benefit, service or facility

For employees and potential employees the duty to make reasonable adjustments aims to make sure that, as far as is reasonable, a disabled worker has the same access to everything that is involved in doing and keeping a job as a non-disabled person.

Schools cannot justify a failure to make a reasonable adjustment; where the duty arises, the issue will be whether or not an adjustment is 'reasonable' and this is an objective question for the tribunals to ultimately determine.

Appendix 3:

Examples of school activities contributing to equalities best practice

Pupil attainment

- Use of RAISE online analysis to track pupil progress by different groups
- Analysis of Government testing by gender
- Action points arising from analysis of pupil performance tracking, such as intervention programmes
- Activities for Gifted and Talented children

Addressing prejudice and bullying

- Anti-bullying initiatives
- Playground leaders
- Use of CCTV to monitor school
- Anti-bullying policy reviewed by all pupils every year

Pupils' behaviour

- Children on behaviour plans have weekly planning and evaluation meetings about their targets
- All incidents are logged, learning mentor and pastoral worker review logs weekly and identify any trends in behaviour to inform HoS to action

Pupils' attendance

- Attendance initiatives
- Proactive schemes with parents and carers where attendance is an issue

The extent to which pupils contribute to the school and wider community

- Ensuring clubs are available to everyone and monitor attendance
- Using adaptations and reasonable adjustments for sports and PE
- Curriculum enhancement days
- Analysis of extended schools data and ability to access out of school activities

The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

- Use of global curriculum
- Assembly themes
- Multicultural week
- Involved in Black History Month
- Visits from different religions/denominations/faiths
- Celebrating and highlight key events, such as Paralympics, Deaf Awareness Week, Learning Disability Week, Disability Awareness Week

The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers

- Parental survey on transition
- Use of a range of media, such as website and newsletters to keep stakeholders up-to-date
- Headteacher blog on school website
- Analysis of attendance at family learning events held on evenings/weekends

The effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being

- English as an Additional Language (EAL) services
- Use Parent Support Advisers to support parents/carers with EAL, disabled children, etc
- Cluster meetings to allow schools to come together for training and development

The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met

- Single equality scheme action plan cross-referenced with SIDP
- Governor curriculum participation – Governor learning walks with HT
- Governor focus meetings

The effectiveness with which the school promotes equal opportunity and tackles discrimination

- Use of pupil attainment data to track progress by different equality groups
- Relevant learning experiences through differentiation suited to learning abilities of pupils
- Non-stereotypical gender activities are actively promoted throughout the curriculum
- All staff are aware of and act upon the schools approach to reporting incidents
- The school gives regular feedback on progress of equality action plan to whole school community

The effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion

- Links with overseas schools – teachers and pupils
- Involvement in charity funded community activities
- Plan for the future community not just the existing community
- Identify and utilise community role model
- Chair of governing body forms links with community members and involves them in the life of the school
- School twinning project

Family, Community and Partnership

- Explain to parents/carers the importance of supporting equality expectations via website, parents evenings, open evenings
- Notice on display in reception/foyer stating equality/respect expectations
- Equality statement given to external providers with school's expectations in relation to equality

Staff and Governors

- CPD log of all staff training activities
- Use statement about commitment to equality on all recruitment materials – job advert, application pack, etc
- Guarantee an interview to any disabled person who applies for a post at school, provided that person meets all the essential criteria on the job and person specification (Positive About Disabled Scheme)