

*The Forest School*

## Single Equality Scheme 2017

### Single Equality Scheme

Three year period covered by this scheme:  
2017 - 2019

Document Status			
<b>Date of Next Review</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<i>School Governance</i>
<b>Success Criteria for review completion</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>Date of Policy Creation</b>	<b>Adapted school written model</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<i>Chair of School Governance</i>
<b>Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body 23/3/2017</b>		<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Method of Communication</b>			

This policy supports our aim to assess and develop pupils' communication, ensuring all pupils are maximising their communicative potential, through communication supportive practice.

An effective learning environment is one which is communication-rich. Staff support pupils' development through a recognition of how communication underpins children's ability to learn and to build relationships. Utilising a Total Communication approach, staff know the appropriate combination of systems to support each pupil individually. Staff have regular communication training to ensure skills and knowledge are kept up to date.

## Introduction

DfE The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities May 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

This Single Equality Scheme for schools in North Yorkshire provides a format for addressing the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2010 and The Children and Families Act 2014 This supersedes and brings together all previous statutory duties in relation to race, gender and disability and also addresses the duty to promote community cohesion, thus meeting the school's statutory duties in these areas.

The scheme also highlights how our school has worked with and listened to the staff, pupils, parents and carers to inform development of action plans and the need and commitment required to ensure the scheme is a success. This is underpinned by a commitment to promoting positive relationships and understanding between all groups within our school community.

This document sets out how pupils with the following protected characteristics (previously known as equality strands) will be protected in our school from harassment and discrimination:-

- disability.
- gender.
- race.
- religion and belief.
- sexual orientation.
- gender reassignment.
- pregnancy and maternity.

The law on disability discrimination is different from the rest of the Equalities Act in a number of ways. In particular, it works in only one direction – that is to say, it protects disabled people but not people who are not disabled. This means that schools are allowed to treat disabled pupils more favourably than non-disabled pupils, and in some cases are required to do so, by making reasonable adjustments to put them on a more level footing with pupils without disabilities The definition of what constitutes discrimination is more complex. Provision for disabled pupils is closely connected with the regime for children with special educational needs. Chapter 4 of the Act deals in detail with disability issues.

This scheme extends however to cover all aspects of vulnerability, including those associated with socio-economic factors (e.g. pupils from low income families).

As well as delivering high quality services to our pupils, the school is also committed to being a good employer and as such this scheme outlines how we meet our varied duties in terms of recruitment and employment practices. We are also committed to be fully inclusive of all community users, including parents and carers. As such, this scheme therefore also sets out how we will work to overcome any discrimination related to the other protected characteristics:-

- Age\*
- Being married or in a civil partnership

\*A person's age is also a protected characteristic in relation to employment and the Act extends this (except for children) to the provision of goods and services, but age as a protected characteristic does not apply to pupils in schools. Schools therefore remain free to admit and organise children in age groups and to treat pupils in ways appropriate to their age and stage of development without risk of legal challenge, even in the case of pupils over the age of 18.

The impact of this scheme is reported on annually.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Headteacher

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Governors

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

## **Purpose of the Equality Scheme**

This equality scheme is the school's response to the specific and general duties in the current equality legislation, which has been brought together under the Equality Act 2010 (see appendix 1). It is an attempt to capture how the school is systematically establishing and implementing good practice in equality and diversity across all areas of school life. This includes a response to all aspects of social identity and diversity.

This Equality Scheme sets out how the school will:

- eliminate discrimination
- eliminate harassment or victimisation related to any aspect of social identity or diversity;
- promote equality of opportunity;
- promote positive attitudes to all aspects of social identity and diversity;
- encourage participation by disabled people and people representing different aspects of social identity in public life;
- take steps to take account of difference even where that involves treating some people more favourably than others;
- take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils.

## **Planning to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity**

This scheme is underpinned by the core belief that all children and young people belong to their local community and share the same rights to membership of that community and a quality education. We set equality objectives with associated actions which are outlined within our equalities action plan that accompanies this Equality Scheme. Our plan identifies what we will be doing over the coming year to make our school more accessible to the whole community, irrespective of background or need. (see appendix 2)

It encompasses our duties to promote positive outcomes in relation to race, gender and disability, but also identifies actions to address other social identities. It encompasses our **anticipatory duties to plan ahead for the reasonable adjustments** (reasonable and proportionate steps to overcome barriers that may impede some pupils) we need to make to be best placed to help disabled pupils who come to our school.

This action plan replaces the school's Disability Accessibility Plan for the school (previously required under the planning duties in the Disability Discrimination Act) as it sets out how the school will increase access to education for disabled pupils, alongside other protected groups, in the three areas required:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

The action plan is renewed annually and progress towards the equality objectives within it is reported on regularly to governors, and this information is published at least annually. Equality objectives have been identified through consultation with key stakeholders using the **Inclusion Quality Mark** audit tool. Our equality objectives are published at least once every four years.

This action plan is understood and implemented by all staff and is available on the school website. It is available in different formats and in different languages on request to the school office.

Our school has regard to the need to provide adequate resources for implementing plans and must regularly review them. (NB An accessibility plan may be a freestanding document but may also be published as part of another document such as the school development plan.)  
OFSTED inspection may include the school's accessibility plan as part of their review.

## School Aims Statements

Welcome to our school. Thank you for taking the time to look at what we do to support the learning of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs from Early years to Year 11 (3-16 year olds).

Pupils join our school with a wide range of challenges in their lives. Presently we have children with...

Moderate Learning Difficulties  
Severe Learning Difficulties  
Autism  
Downs Syndrome  
Attention Deficit Disorder  
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder  
Complex Medical Difficulties

And 94% of our school population have Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

No two individuals are the same and at our school we make no judgements about the young people we work with. We invite them to come on a learning journey with us. We help them to arrive at a place where they are more comfortable with themselves, they are happy at home and society understands them and their needs.

Our aim is that the pupils become confident as individuals, responsible as citizens and successful as learners.

The school is a Specialist College for Communication and Interaction and this is a key aspect of the work we do.

We provide for pupils during both the Primary and Secondary phases of their educational career. The younger children can be recognised as wearing red jerseys and are taught by the same teacher all week. The older pupils, in blue jerseys, follow a typical secondary style timetable moving around the school to be taught by specialists in subject specific rooms.

We create a family type atmosphere in which everyone knows, respects and is tolerant of everyone else. Friendship, respect and excellence are at the heart of all that we do. We help young people to develop lasting friendships with their peers whilst sharing their learning journeys. We encourage all of our pupils to respect themselves and others as they strive for excellence in all that they do both academically and personally.

The sky is the limit for our pupils in terms of what they can achieve and the school does all that it can to enable everyone to reach their full potential.

Headteacher

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### **Equality Objectives 2015-2019**

- Ensure that all members of the school, including those with protected characteristics, are treated equally and fairly.
- Enable all members of the school have full access to communication and interaction supportive strategies.
- Ensure that all members of the school develop in an atmosphere of safety and support

### **Indicators of progress towards meeting objectives**

- School becomes a National Centre of Excellence for Makaton Signing.
- All staff using Makaton signing in class and around school.
- All staff using positive behaviour management techniques..
- Pupils will be seen to access and engage in lessons, displaying a willingness to overcome their own barriers to learning.
- Pupils taking increased responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.
- All members of the school talk of Friendship, Tolerance and Respect.
- Pupils talk of and demonstrate independent learning behaviours

### **What kind of a school are we?**

#### **School Vision and Values**

The school's vision and values statement reflects the school's ambitions for all its pupils and have been developed with the whole community. It refers to the key requirements set out in the National Curriculum Inclusion Statement for developing an inclusive curriculum: setting suitable learning challenges; responding to pupils' diverse learning needs; overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

The school statement also embraces the North Yorkshire Inclusion statement which emphasises that individuals and groups of learners who may be vulnerable to exclusion, marginalisation and underachievement are identified and receive targeted provision to ensure their presence, participation and achievement. The school is committed to achieving the **Inclusion Quality Mark** and to addressing any actions which are identified to improve our inclusive practice.

#### **School Context**

The nature of the school population and context to inform action planning for the equality scheme

##### **Factors of the geographical location of the school:-**

The catchment area of the school covers a diverse range of socio/economic and urban/rural backgrounds.

Pupils attend our school and are all transported in from:  
As far west as Skipton, as far east as the outskirts of York, as far north as Kirby Malzeard and as far south as Selby.

Consequently the school becomes the community common to all of it's members during the day.

100% SEN  
4% English not first language at home  
24% Free School Meals  
4% Looked After Children  
23.8% Girls  
76.2% Boys

### **The training taken to position the school well for the equality and diversity agenda.**

- Whole staff and Governors trained in Safeguarding, including E-safety.
- Whole staff trained in the use of Makaton.
- Whole staff trained in Team-Teach behaviour support strategies.
- Dispensing of medicines procedures.
- 'Pupil Matters' heads agendas of all school meetings including Governing Body.

*governor training on fair recruitment practices; training on the new SEND Code of Practice 2014 ;*

### **School provision**

#### **Examples of reasonable adjustments the school makes as a matter of course**

From September 2012 schools and local authorities have a duty to supply auxiliary aids and services as reasonable adjustments where these are not being supplied through Special Educational Needs (SEN) statements or from other sources. Additional high needs funding may be available on application to the local authority.

- All of our children are different and no two the same. Consequently there is a differentiated behaviour policy. However this does not detract from the school having the highest expectation of all pupils and staff.
- Information is currently provided for disabled pupils and parents/carers via letters home, annual review records, School Development Plan, school website.
- We use Makaton, PECS, and visual timetables
- The schools involves pupils in school development and improvement through the School Council
- The Speech and Language Therapy team develop inclusion passports.
- Provision mapping has been carried out for the Resource Allocation System for each pupil. (Can – Do Statements)
- The School Development Plan covers
  1. Makaton training to even higher level for all staff
  2. Differentiation and personalised learning for all pupils
  3. Communication and Interaction

## Outcomes for pupils

Outcomes for pupils are analysed against social identity issues, i.e. gender, ethnicity, disability, faith background, and aspects of vulnerability identified by the school. This is compared with the outcomes made for all pupils. This is recorded in the School Self evaluation Form (SEF).

These processes form part of the school's equality impact assessment processes through the Inclusion Quality Mark, to determine the impact of our provision on improving outcomes for identified pupils. In line with statutory requirements all new policies as well as existing policies and functions are evaluated for the impact they have, in consultation with identified pupils and parents/carers.

- General CASPA data and Key Stage 4 external examination results indicate that there are no significant differences in the learning and progress of protected groups in comparison to others.
- There are no significant differences between protected groups when compared to other pupils in relation to behaviour, attendance and exclusion data, incidents of bullying, the adoption of healthy lifestyles, engagement in general school life and attendance at parent meetings.
- A named member of the teaching staff and a member of the Governing Body have a role in monitoring the impact of the school provision generally and the progress specifically of protected groups.

## Roles and Responsibilities in Implementing the Single Equality Scheme

### The Head Teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about the Single Equality Scheme;
- ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively;
- manage any day to day issues arising from the policy whether for pupils or for the school as an employer;
- ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the scheme;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available;
- monitor the scheme and report to the Governing Body at least annually, on the effectiveness of the policy;
- ensure that the SLT are kept up to date with any development affecting the policy/action plan arising from the scheme;
- provide appropriate support and monitoring for all pupils and specific and targeted pupils to whom the scheme has direct relevance, with assistance from relevant agencies.

### The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the school complies with all relevant equalities legislation;
- recommend all governors receive up to date training in all the equalities and SEND duties;
- designate a governor with specific responsibility for the Single Equality Scheme;
- establish that the action plans arising from the scheme are part of the School Development Plan;
- support the Headteacher in implementing any actions necessary;

- inform and consult with parents about the scheme;
- evaluate and review the action every three years;
- evaluate the action plan annually
- publish information at least annually.
- publish equality objectives every four years

### **The Senior Leadership Team will:**

- have general responsibility for supporting other staff in implementing this scheme;
- provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to the scheme;
- identify good quality resources and CPD opportunities to support the scheme;
- with the Headteacher, provide advice/support in dealing with any incidents/issues;
- assist in implementing reviews of this scheme as detailed in the School Development Plan.

### **People with specific responsibilities (named):**

- The Headteacher will be responsible for maintaining and sharing with all the staff those vulnerable pupils and how their needs will be met;
- The Headteacher will be person responsible for ensuring the specific needs of staff members are addressed;
- The Assessment Co-ordinator (Paul James) will be responsible for gathering and analysing the information on outcomes of vulnerable pupils and staff (see section 4);
- The Headteacher will be responsible for monitoring the response to reported incidents of a discriminatory nature.
- The LAC Co-ordinator will be responsible for gathering, analysing and sending to Virtual School, all progress data on LAC.

### **Parents/Carers will:**

- have access to the scheme;
- be encouraged to support the scheme;
- have the opportunity to attend meeting and contribute to the development of the scheme;
- have the right to a personalised approach to meeting additional needs and a right to have their views taken into account.
- have the right to be informed of any incident related to this scheme which could directly affect their child.

### **School Staff will:**

- accept that this is a whole school issue and support the Single Equality Scheme;
- be aware of the Single Equality Scheme and how it relates to them;
- make known any queries or training requirements
- know how to deal with incidents of concern, including bullying and how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping;
- know procedures for reporting incidents of racism, harassment or other forms of discrimination;
- not discriminate on racial, disability or other grounds;
- 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 encouraged to express their views and contribute where possible to the formulation of policies
- 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 discriminatory bullying and racially motivated incidents;
- ensure the peer support programme within the school promotes understanding and supports pupils who are experiencing discrimination.

Visitors and contractors are responsible for complying with the school's Equality Scheme – non-compliance will be dealt with by the Headteacher.

## Involvement Processes

Policies are vital to identify and consolidate thinking regarding appropriate provision for pupils, however, they are often viewed as an end, when they should be seen as a process - always evolving in response to changes and evidence from impact assessments. When developing this Equality Scheme, the school is clear that this is a process which must be informed by the involvement of all participants such as pupils, parents, school staff, governors and external agencies. This will ensure that the school gleans insights into the barriers faced by people from different social identity backgrounds and learns the best ways to overcome such barriers. This Scheme will be informed, therefore, by:

- the views and aspirations of pupils themselves from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of parents of pupils from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of staff from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of members of the community and other agencies, including voluntary organisations, representing different social identity backgrounds;
- the priorities in the North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Plan.

## Mechanisms for involvement

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **pupils** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- School council;
- Individual interviews with pupils involved in incidents of a discriminatory nature;
- Individual interviews with pupils experiencing reasonable adjustments;

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **staff** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Exit interviews with staff;
- Regular meetings with union representatives;
- Regular staff meetings with specific agenda items;
- Individual discussions with staff as a part of performance management.

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **parents and the community** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- We warmly welcome all parents and the community into school so that they are critical drivers in policy development.
- Parents are invited to inform the school if there are any adjustments that could be made to support them or their child.
- Parents receive a copy of the School Development Plan.
- The responses from the Annual Parent Survey (54% response rate) indicate an outstandingly favourable view of the school, it's provision and management.
- The Governing Body have a wealth of historical data that enables them to make accurate judgements as to the success of the school.
- The Local Authority EDA makes reference to protected groups during their termly visits.

## **Making it happen**

The effectiveness of this Scheme will be evaluated and reflected in:

- the School Self-evaluation Form;
- Parental and visiting professional feedback eg parent view and annual stake holder surveys  
Discussions with the School Development Advisor

## **Reporting**

This Scheme will be reported on annually. Progress against the action plan will be evaluated and the impact of the action and activities assessed. Copies will be displayed in the school reception area and it will be referenced in school newsletters and in the school's prospectus, school website.

## **Publication**

This Equality Scheme will be published and available to anyone requesting a copy. Copies will be displayed in the school reception area and it will be referenced in school newsletters, the school prospectus and on the school's website.

Information is published demonstrating how the school is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and the school's equality objectives. The school updates its published information at least annually and publishes the equality objectives at least every four years.

It will be up to schools themselves to decide in what format they publish equality information. For most schools, the simplest approach may be to set up an equalities page on their website where all this information is present or links to it are available. The regulations are not prescriptive and it will be entirely up to schools to decide how they publish the information, so long as it is accessible to those members of the school community and the public who want to see it. (5.25 DfE Equalities Guidance May 2014)

## Contact us

**North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD**

Our Customer Service Centre is open: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm and Saturday

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如欲索取以另一語言印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

Aby otrzymać te informacje w innym języku lub formacie, np. w alfabecie brajla, w wersji dużym drukiem lub audio, prosimy się z nami skontaktować.

Email: [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk)



## Equality Legislation and Guidance

This equality scheme responds to the current equalities legislation.

- The Equality Act 2010 is the overarching legislation for all equality duties.

The act serves two main purposes:

- a) To harmonise discrimination law;
- b) To strengthen the law to support progress on equality.

The act supersedes or strengthens the following acts and regulations:

- The Equal Pay Act 1970
- The Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- The Race Relations Act 1976
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Employment Equality (Religion & Belief and Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- The Equality Act 2006 Part 2
- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007
- The SEN Code of Practice 2001

### Overview of previous equalities legislation which has been harmonised and strengthened by Equality Act 2010:

- Race Relations Act (RRA) 1976/2000  
statutory positive duty to promote racial equality, promote good race relations and eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
- Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) 1975 (and Regulations 1999), Gender Equality Duty 2007  
statutory positive duty to promote gender equality and eliminate unlawful gender discrimination;
- Employment Equality (religion or belief) (sexual orientation) Regulations 2003 extended to education, Equality Act (Part 2) 2007  
The Act sets out that it is unlawful for schools to discriminate against a person:
  - a) in the terms on which it offers to admit him/her as a pupil;
  - b) by refusing to accept an application to admit him/her as a pupil, or
  - c) where he/she is a pupil of the establishment:
    - i) in the way in which it affords him/her access to any benefit, facility or service,
    - ii) by refusing him/her access to a benefit, facility or service,
    - iii) by excluding him/her from the establishment,
    - iv) by subjecting him/her to any other detriment.
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995/2005  
statutory positive duty to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people: pupils, staff, parents, carers and other people who use the school or may wish to, and eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- Education and Inspections Act 2006, duty to promote community cohesion.  
By 'community cohesion' the school is endorsing and adopting the definition provided by Alan Johnson, 2006, as:  
"working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a

society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.”

### Essential Further Guidance

DfE The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities (May 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Guidance for schools

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/education-providers-schools-guidance>

SEND Code of Practice January 2015- latest at 01.03.15 and effective from 01.04.15