



**The Black  
Pear Trust**

## EQUALITY INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES POLICY

<b>Approved by:</b>	Trust Board	<b>Date:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
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## **Contents:**

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Principles and aims
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Equality objectives
5. Collecting and using information
6. Publishing information
7. Promoting equality
8. Addressing prejudice related incidents
9. Appeal process
10. Curriculum
11. Monitoring and review

Appendix 1 – Equality Information and objectives statement

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Black Pear Trust recognises that certain groups in society have historically been disadvantaged because of the unlawful discrimination they have faced due to their race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

This policy will put in place a range of actions to eliminate prejudice, unlawful discrimination and victimisation within the school community and workforce.

The Trust has a statutory duty to publish an Equality Information and Objectives Statement. This policy sets out how the Trust determines its equality objectives.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This policy also has due regard for non-statutory guidance, including the following:

- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Equality Information and Objectives Statement (Appendix 1)
- Admissions Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (draft)
- Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (draft)

The Equality Act 2010 provides a modern, single legal framework with three broad duties:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the purpose of this policy, the Equality Act 2010 will be referred to as 'the Act'.

The Trust and each of the schools fully understands the principles of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equal opportunities.

Protected characteristics, under the Act, are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnicity

- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school/trust to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- In relation to admissions.
- In the way it provides education for pupils.
- In the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service.
- By excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The responsible body for the school is the proprietor.

The Trust's liability not to discriminate, harass or victimise does not end when a pupil has left a trust school, but will apply to subsequent actions connected to the previous relationship between school and pupil, such as the provision of references on former pupils or access to "old pupils" communications and activities.

The Trust will promote equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and will work in line with the Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work Policy.

## PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

We see all learners and potential learners, and their parents, as of equal value, regardless of any protected characteristic.

Our policies, procedures and activities will not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences in life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face in relation to any protected characteristic.

The Trust will promote race equality and have due regard to eliminating unlawful racial discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups.

The Trust will promote disability equality, ensuring equality of opportunity, eliminating unlawful discrimination and disability-related harassment and encouraging participation by disabled people in public life.

The Trust will promote gender equality by eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment and promote the equality of opportunity between men and women, girls and boys.

Transgender people are explicitly covered by the PSED. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'transgender' refers to an individual whose gender expression or identity is different from that traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

The Trust will respect the confidentiality of those seeking gender reassignment and will provide a supportive environment within the community.

The Trust is opposed to all forms of prejudice and recognises that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fare less well in the education system.

The Trust will ensure that all staff comply with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.

Each of the Trust school's Admissions Policy will not discriminate against any protected characteristic in any way.

The central team and each school will:

- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities, given necessary training and support, and report progress to the Trustees.
- Ensure that the recording and reporting of equality and diversity is sufficiently scrutinised.
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, a shared sense of cohesion and belonging, and ensure this is promoted in our policies, procedures and activities.
- Observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development, and ensure that all policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees regardless of any protected characteristic, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.
- Reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.
- Engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy, procedure or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones.
- Ensure that policies, procedures and activities benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in the public life of everyone, regardless of any protected characteristic.
- Ensure staff promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenging inappropriate language and behaviour, responding appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, and showing appropriate support for pupils with additional needs, maintaining a good level of awareness of issues surrounding equality.



The Trust Board will:

- Ensure that the Trust and each of the school's comply with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.
- Meet its obligations under the PSED (Public, Sector, Equality, Duty) to publish equality objectives at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.
- Ensure that each school's policies and procedures are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans.
- Ensure that Trust school Admissions Policy's do not discriminate in any way (delegated responsibility to LGB).
- Ensure equal opportunities in its staff recruitment and promotion practices, professional development programmes and in membership of the Trust board and LGB's.
- Proactively recruit high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.
- Provide information in appropriate and accessible formats.
- Ensure that the necessary disciplinary measures are in place to enforce this policy.

CEO and Trust leaders will:

- Implement and champion this policy and its procedures.
- Ensure that all staff members receive the appropriate equality and diversity training as part of their induction and CPD.
- Ensure that all parents, visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the provisions of this policy.
- Actively challenge and take appropriate action in any case of discriminatory practice.
- Address any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with DfE guidance.
- Produce an annual report on the progress of implementing the provisions of this policy and report it to the Trust Board.

School leaders and colleagues will:

- Be mindful of any incidents of harassment or bullying in the school.
- Address any minor issues of harassment or bullying and report any major breaches of the policy to the Headteacher
- Track and monitor any instances of discrimination and deal with these in a consistent manner, making a report to the headteacher as necessary and following up with pupils as required.

- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and the school's culture.
- Promote equality and good relations, and not harass or discriminate in any way.
- Monitor pupils' progress and academic needs to ensure the appropriate support is in place.
- Champion diversity and inclusion.
- Keep up-to-date with equality legislation and its application by attending the appropriate training.

Pupils will:

- Not discriminate or harass any other pupil or staff member.
- Actively encourage equality and diversity in the school by contributing their cultural experiences and values.
- Report any incidences of bullying or harassment, whether to themselves or to others, to the class teacher or to another member of staff.
- Abide by all the school's equality and diversity policies, procedures and codes.

The trust will have an equality page on its website, in order to demonstrate how it is complying with the PSED(Public Sector Equality Duty )in the Equality Act 2010, and advancing equality of opportunity.

## EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

The Trust and each of the school's are committed to promoting the welfare and equality of all its staff, pupils and other members of the school community.

The Trust sees all members of our school communities as of equal value, regardless of any protected characteristic. The Trust's policies, procedures and activities will not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences in life experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face in relation to any protected characteristic.

The Black Pear Trust 's Equality Information and Objectives Statement sets out how the Trust is meeting the PSED and outlines how equality of opportunity is ensured for all members of the school community. The Equality Information and Objectives Statement is reviewed at least every four years and is published on the school website annually.

To achieve this, the Trust has established the following objectives:

### **Objective 1**

**To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. We aim to meet this objective with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity.**



### Objective 2

To close gaps in attainment and achievement between students and all groups of students; especially boys and girls, students eligible for free-school meals, students with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children and students from different heritage groups.

### Objective 3

To eradicate prejudice related bullying in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.

### Objective 4

Undertake an analysis of recruitment data and trends with regard to race, gender and disability by July 2023 and report this to the Trust Board.

### Objective 5

To endeavour to ensure that the staff body and representation of staff in leadership roles and governance is reflective of the local community.

## COLLECTING AND USING INFORMATION

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, personal data will be lawfully collected and processed in line with the principles and practices outlined in the Data Protection Policy and only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, e.g. to comply with the school's legal obligations.

The Trust and each of the schools will collect equality information for the purpose of:

- Identifying key issues, e.g., unlawful discrimination in teaching methods.
- Assessing performance, e.g., benchmarking against similar organisations locally or nationally.
- Taking action, e.g., adapting working practice to accommodate the needs of staff who share protected characteristics.

The Trust and each of the schools will build an equality profile for staff to assist with identifying any issues within their recruitment regime. The school will obtain the following information from their staff:

- Recruitment and promotion
- Numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- Pay and remuneration
- Training
- Return to work of staff members on parental leave
- Return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disabilities
- Appraisals
- Grievances (including about harassment)
- Disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- Dismissals and other reasons for leaving

The Trust will use the information it obtains to analyse any gaps present in its equality documentary, including the Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

## **PUBLISHING INFORMATION**

The Trust will publish information to demonstrate its compliance with the Act.

The Trust will publish information relating to persons within the school community who share relevant protected characteristics, these will include:

- Other persons affected by the school's policies and procedures

The school will not provide this information if:

- The employee is employed under contract personally to do work.
- The employer does not have, and it is not reasonably practicable for the employer to obtain the data.

## **PROMOTING EQUALITY**

In order to meet our objectives, the Trust has identified the following priorities:

- The Trust will provide auxiliary aids that are directly related to disabled pupil's educational needs as a reasonable adjustment, so they can integrate wholly in all parts of school life.
- Staff will ensure that all pupils are able to take part in extra-curricular activities and residential visits, and the school will monitor uptake of these visits to ensure no one is disadvantaged on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- The Trust will ensure that all forms of prejudice-motivated bullying is taken seriously and dealt with equally and firmly.
- There will be differential schemes of work designed to meet the abilities and learning styles of all pupils.
- There will be a clearly defined disciplinary system stipulated in the Behaviour Policy, which will be consistently enforced.
- The Trust will increase access for disabled children and young people to the school curriculum and will take necessary steps to meet pupils' needs by using a variety of approaches and planning reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, enabling them to take as full a part as possible in the activities of the school.
- The Trust will ensure there is adequate access to the physical environment of each of our schools.
- The Trust will improve the delivery of written information to disabled children and young people.
- The Trust will seek the views of advisory staff, outside agencies and local schools.
- Throughout the year, the school will plan ongoing events to raise awareness of equality and diversity.

- The Trust will consult with stakeholders to establish equality objectives and draw up a plan based on information collected on protected groups and accessibility planning.
- Equality objectives will be published at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.
- Bullying and prejudice will be carefully monitored and dealt with accordingly.
- Annual training will be given to both existing and new staff to ensure that they are aware of the process for reporting and following up incidents of prejudice-related bullying.

## ADDRESSING PREJUDICE-RELATED INCIDENTS

The Trust is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that pupils and staff who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fare less well in the education system.

The Trust will ensure that pupils and staff are aware of the impact of prejudice in order to prevent any incidents from occurring.

If incidents continue to occur, the school will address them immediately and report them to the necessary bodies.

## APPEAL PROCESS

Staff members retain the right to appeal against a decision on the acceptability of their appearance e.g. dress code, using the school's grievance procedure.

The Trust will adhere to the Complaints Procedures Policy when following the grievance procedure.

## CURRICULUM

All pupils will be entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum and to teaching and learning opportunities which meet their needs, including extra support where this has been identified as a statutory need.

When planning the curriculum, the school will take every opportunity to promote and advance equality.

When teaching the curriculum, the school will promote equality and will not subject individuals to discrimination.

The Trust will develop an appropriate curriculum for all pupils in all vulnerable groups.

The Trust will ensure PSHE lessons are designed for pupils to develop their knowledge of the world and the importance of equality.

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Trustees will review this policy every four years to ensure that all procedures are up-to-date. The policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Trustees in the following ways:

- Individual attainment data

- Equal opportunities recruitment data
- Equality impact assessments
- Ofsted inspection judgements on equality and diversity
- Incident records related to harassment and bullying

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Black Pear Trust Equality Information and Objectives Statement**

#### **Opening statement**

The Black Pear Trust and each of our schools are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background, in line with Equality Act 2010.

We shall endeavour to make a positive contribution to society by demonstrating qualities such as respect, co-operation and valuing differences while celebrating cultural diversity. We aim to create a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life. We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity in line with the Equality Act 2010. This commitment applies to our work in the classroom, our pupil support systems, our recruitment and retention of staff and our work in the local and wider community.

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent and do not discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, religion, belief, disability and/or socio-economic background.

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The school's general duties with regard to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination.
- Fostering good relationships.
- Advancing equality of opportunity.

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any staff member, pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

- Sex.
- Age.
- Race.
- Disability.
- Religion or belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.
- Pregnancy or maternity.
- Marriage and civil partnership.

We aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality and diversity, and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff. Our

school is committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity.

### **Aims to eradicate discrimination**

We believe that a greater level of success from pupils and staff can be achieved by realising the uniqueness of individuals. Creating an inclusive environment where individuals feel confident and at ease is a commitment of the school. This environment will be achieved by:

- Being respectful.
- Always treating all members of the school community fairly.
- Developing an understanding of diversity and inclusion and the benefits it can have.
- Adopting an inclusive attitude and ensuring that the whole school community understands what inclusive behaviour looks like in the school and how this aligns with the school's values.
- Adopting an inclusive curriculum that is accessible to all.
- Encouraging compassion and open-mindedness.
- Challenging bias and calling it out in order to move the conversation forward.

We are committed to having a balanced, diverse and fair curriculum. We believe that our pupils should be exposed to ideas and concepts that may challenge their understanding, to help ensure that pupils learn to become more accepting and inclusive of others. Challenging and controversial concepts will be delivered in a way that prevents discrimination and promotes inclusive attitudes.

### **Dealing with prejudice and celebrating diversity**

We do not tolerate any form of prejudice-related incident. Whether direct or indirect, we treat discrimination against all members of our school with the utmost severity. When an incident is reported, our school is devoted to ensuring appropriate action is taken and a resolution is put into place which is both fair and firm.

Our pupils are taught to be:

- Understanding of others.
- Celebratory of diversity.
- Eager to reach their full potential.
- Aware of what constitutes discriminatory behaviour.
- Inclusive

Trust employees will not:

- Discriminate against any member of the trust/school community.
- Treat other members of the trust/school community unfairly.

Trust employees will:

- Promote diversity and equality.
- Encourage and adopt an inclusive attitude.
- Lead by example.
- Seek training if they need to improve their knowledge in a particular area.

Throughout the year, the school provides a variety of opportunities to celebrate diversity, including:

- Planning activities for key diversity awareness days.
- Inviting guest speakers to talk to pupils about diversity.
- Incorporating lessons about diversity into the curriculum.

### **Equality and dignity in the workplace**

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender reassignment.
- Marital or civil partner status.
- Pregnancy or maternity.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.

Equality of opportunity and non-discrimination extends to the treatment of all members of the school community. All staff members are obliged to act in accordance with the school's various policies relating to equality.

We will guarantee that no redundancy is the result of direct or indirect prejudice. All disciplinary procedures are non-prejudicial, whether they result in warnings, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action.

### **Closing statement**

Prejudice is not tolerated and we are continuously working towards a more accepting and respectful environment for our school community.