

Equality Policy

Policy Details	
Policy prepared by:	Charlotte Poynton, Assistant Principal
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Purpose of Document

The objective of this policy is to provide a framework for the school to pursue its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under The Equality Act (2010), which brought together over 100 pieces of existing equality legislation, as well as this existing legislation. The duty extends to all protected characteristics as well as any other vulnerable groups.

Protected characteristics are: race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

We are required to have due regard for the need to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; foster good relations across all characteristics as well as between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The principles of this policy apply to all members of the extended school community - pupils, staff, the governing body, parents, volunteers and community members. Partners and contractors are also expected to abide by the policy.

Equality and Diversity Statement

We will not tolerate less favourable treatment of anyone on the grounds of race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. In addition, we will not tolerate less favourable treatment of those for whom English is an additional language, minority ethnic pupils, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, young carers or any other vulnerable groups.

Equality and Diversity goes beyond meeting legal obligations or targets. It is about making a difference to the lives of the communities we serve, treating all people with dignity and respect, and recognising the value of each individual. This means an ongoing commitment to ensuring that our services meet the varied and individual needs of all members of the school community.

To that end, through our school ethos, curriculum and community links, we will work towards

- a common vision;
- a sense of belonging for all;
- similar life opportunities for all.

Guiding Principles

At The Edge Academy we fully endorse and accept the following principles:

All learners are of equal value - “Achievement for All”

All learners and potential learners are of equal value and benefit equally from

school policies, practices and programmes, whatever their ability, background, gender identity or cultural identity.

Relevant differences are recognised

Treating people equally can mean treating them differently. Practices and programmes do not discriminate, but may be differentiated to take account of differences of life experience, outlook and background.

We foster positive attitudes, relationships and a shared sense of belonging

Programmes promote:

- positive attitudes and interactions;
- mutual respect and good relations;
- an absence of harassment or prejudice-related bullying between people of different ability, special educational need, sex, race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or anyone else belonging to a vulnerable group.

Staff recruitment, retention and development

Policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in recruitment, professional development and promotion.

Society as a whole benefits

Programmes benefit society as a whole, locally, nationally and internationally, by fostering greater cohesion and greater participation in public life of people with protected characteristics.

Equalities Legislation

Our commitment is reinforced through our legal duty both as an employer and service provider. The legal duties come from a range of relevant equality legislation and associated codes of practice, many of which have subsequently been merged into the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under The Equality Act (2010). Through this policy we are committed to complying with the general and specific duties, as well as codes of practice.

Future Legislation

We will also welcome the contribution of future equalities legislation to provide equal opportunities for everyone.

The Edge Academy is committed to ensuring all regulations are followed:

Implementation

We will ensure implementation through action in the following areas:

Relationships and ethos - to foster behaviour based on rights, responsibilities and mutual respect between all members of the school community; to support pupils' personal development and well-being; to address and record all forms of

prejudice-related bullying; to promote The Edge Academy as a 'Telling School', expecting all pupils to pass on information to staff that threatens equality, diversity and community cohesion.

Equity and excellence - to ensure equal opportunities for all to succeed at the highest possible level achievable, removing barriers to access and participation in learning and wider activities and minimising variations in outcomes for different groups.

Teaching, learning and curriculum - to teach pupils to understand others, promote common values and value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop skills of participation and responsible action.

Engagement and extended services - to provide a means for children, young people and their families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including links with different school communities locally, across the country and internationally.

Equality objectives — Each year, we will set equality objectives to improve the school experience of a range of different pupils. These will be published on our website and the work we are doing to achieve them publicised. They will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Monitoring, Reviewing and Assessing Impact

This policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed by staff and governors to ensure that it is effective.

Any pattern of inequality found as a result of impact assessments is used to inform future planning and decision-making.

The Principal monitors specific outcomes annually.

Roles and Responsibilities

All who are associated with The Edge Academy have a responsibility for promoting equality and inclusion and avoiding unfair discrimination.

Our Governing Body is responsible for:

- Making sure the school complies with all current equality legislation.
- Making sure this policy and its procedures are followed.
- Making sure that the school has up to date equality schemes and action plans.

Our Principal is responsible for:

- Taking appropriate action in cases of harassment and discrimination.
- Reporting racist incidents to the local authority.
- Delegation to the DSL in being responsible for coordinating and monitoring work

on equality and diversity issues.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Making sure the policy is readily available and that the Governing Body, staff, pupils, and their parents/carers know about it.
- Making sure its procedures are followed.
- Producing regular information for staff and the Governing Body about the policy and how it is working, and providing training for them on the policy, if necessary.
- Making sure all staff know their responsibilities and receive training and support in carrying these out.
- Monitoring exclusions, analysing any possible patterns and acting on the findings.

All our staff are responsible for:

- Proactively following this policy and any associated guidelines.
- Providing role models for pupils through their own actions.
- Dealing with racist, sexist and homophobic incidents, and recognising and tackling other forms of bias and stereotyping.
- Promoting equality and good community relations and avoiding discrimination towards anyone because of their protected characteristics or because they belong to a vulnerable group.
- Maintaining high expectations for all pupils.
- Keeping up to date with the law on discrimination and taking training and learning opportunities available to them.

All our students are responsible for:

- Treating others kindly and fairly without prejudice, discrimination or harassment.
- Attending and engaging in their own learning as well as allowing and helping other pupils to learn.
- Telling staff about any discrimination-related incidents that occur.

All our parents/carers are responsible for:

- Supporting our school in its implementation of this policy.
- Following the school policy through their own behaviour.
- Ensuring their children attend and engage in learning.

Responsibility for overseeing equality practices in the school lies with the Principal and DSL who report to the Governing Body.

Breaches of the Policy

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the Principal and the Governing Body.