



# Heathfield Schools' Partnership

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## Equality and Diversity Statement and Objectives

### 1 Introduction

1.1 This document describes how the Governing Body of Heathfield Schools' Federation intends to fulfil its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty with regard to its workforce. The Equality Objectives will be part of the School Development Plan.

### 1.2 Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

We will have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

1.3 We will collect and use equality information to help us to:

- Identify key issues;
- Understand the impact of our policies, practices and decisions on people with different protected characteristics, and thereby plan them more effectively;
- Assess whether we are discriminating unlawfully when carrying out any of our functions;
- Identify what the key equality issues are for our organisation.
- Assess performance
- Benchmark our performance and processes against those of similar organisations, nationally or locally.
- Take action
- Consider taking steps to meet the needs of staff who share relevant protected characteristics;
- Identify if there are any actions we can take to avoid discrimination and harassment, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations;
- Make informed decisions about policies and practices which are based on evidence about the impact of our activities on equality;
- Develop equality objectives to meet the specific duties;
- Have due regard to the aims of the general equality duty by ensuring that staff have appropriate information for decision-making.

1.4 We will work towards developing an equality profile of staff to help us to understand key equality issues in our workforce, including any evidence of pay gaps or 'occupational segregation' i.e. staff with certain protected characteristics being over-represented in particular roles, for example, women as cleaners, or at certain grades. In addition, we note that it is likely to be useful to collect and consider information, appropriately disaggregated, about:

- recruitment and promotion
- numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- pay and remuneration
- training
- return to work of women on maternity leave
- return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disability
- appraisals
- grievances (including about harassment)
- disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- dismissals and other reasons for leaving.

## 2. **Publication of Equality Information**

- 2.1 We will collect and use enough workforce information to effectively meet the general equality duty. Where relevant and proportionate we will publish on our website some information about the impact of our employment functions on people with the different protected characteristics in order to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty.

### **Equality Objectives 2020-2024**

There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with legislation from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000), Disability Equality Duty (2005) and Equality Act (2010) and the Equality Act 2010 (specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

Heathfield Schools' Federation is committed to meeting its public sector duties and acknowledges that we have a statutory duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act,
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it,
- Foster good relations across all characteristics - between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Leadership Team and Governors at Heathfield Schools' Federation regularly review the progress we are making to meet our equality objectives with regard to the protected characteristics (race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment) under the Equality Act (2010).

#### **Equality Objectives:**

At Heathfield Schools' Federation, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, religion or socio-economic background.

In order to further support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching, we have set ourselves the following objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and special educational need or disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.
- **Objective 2:** To raise levels of attainment in core subjects for vulnerable learners. For vulnerable - Pupil Premium including: FSM, LAC, Post LAC and EAL students to achieve national average levels in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- **Objective 3:** To raise levels of parental and pupil engagement in learning and school life, across all activities including regular attendance to ensure equity and fairness in access and engagement.

To be reviewed annually and regularly monitored by the governing body and SLT.