

Broughton Church of England Methodist Primary School



Equality and Diversity Policy

May 2024

BRANT BROUGHTON CE METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY

Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School is committed to equality and valuing diversity and actively supports practices that promote genuine equality of opportunity for all staff and young people. This is evident in the Vision for our school:

Our inclusive church school celebrates each person and makes sure that everyone is known and valued. An ambitious and engaging curriculum strives to lay strong foundations to prepare pupils for their lives now and in the future. In the spirit of ubuntu (I am because we are) we travel together, discern possibilities and act in hope so that each person flourishes.

1. Introduction

Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School is committed to promoting a positive and diverse culture in which all staff and young people are valued and supported to fulfil their potential irrespective of their age, disability, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We recognise our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and are committed to promoting the equality and diversity of all those we work with especially our employees, pupils and visitors. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination, bullying and harassment and will make every effort to comply with the requirements of the Act and its subsequent provisions.

The Act also specifies particular areas of protection e.g. in employment and within education and set out general and specific duties which schools must meet. The public sector Equality Duty consists of a general duty and some specific duties that are designed to help organisations meet their general duty. School also adopts the guidance from LCC in the document entitled 'Equality and Diversity in Employment Policy'.

In demonstrating our commitment to equality and diversity, Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School aims to ensure that:

- There is a high success rate for **all** learners
- Equality has a strategic prominence and is integral to review and planning
- Equality is understood by all and is evident in daily activities
- Clear and decisive evaluation and monitoring of performance and outcomes of different groups of learners and appropriate action taken to narrow gaps
- Attendance and absences are monitored and staff are aware of how this can have an impact upon achievement, every effort is made to ensure that this is dealt with effectively
- Well planned curriculum meets needs of individual learners. Where appropriate referrals to other providers may be made
- Inappropriate behaviour, comment and bullying is challenged
- Strong community involvement is a feature of our school. The school is committed to diversity and promotes benefits of diversity
- Frequent and effective staff training at all levels
- Equality and Diversity is embedded across all areas of teaching, training, learning
- We foster good relationships between people who share a protected characteristics and those who do not

The following groups have been identified as key recipients in terms of the provision of this statement:

- Children in care or those who are vulnerable
- Those with Special Educational Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- Are excluded or at risk of suspension from school
- Are from an ethnic group, including those from Gypsy, Roma, Traveller background
- Have English as an additional language
- Are missing in education
- Have ill health, including hospitalisation which may affect attendance at school
- Have drug or alcohol abuse
- Are young carers
- Are offending or at risk of offending
- Have mental health issues
- Are in receipt of free school meals
- Live in areas of deprivation
- Gifted and talented
- Are gender questioning or going through transition
- Are LGBTQ+

This policy and all associated procedures apply to all staff (including volunteers and students on placement), young people and visitors and should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Off-Site Visits Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Failure to comply with these policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action. Discriminatory treatment, bullying or harassment of staff or young people by visitors will also not be tolerated.

2. Compliance

Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 is the responsibility of all members of staff. Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School does not condone any act of direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Any breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

3. Definitions

The Equality Act covers nine protected characteristics upon which discrimination is unlawful:

- age
- disability

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

For further information on **types of unlawful discrimination** see Appendix 1.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all equality and diversity matters at Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School is the Headteacher.

The role of the Designated Person is to:

- Create an environment in which all members of the community are expected to treat one another with mutual respect, dignity and tolerance.
- Ensure that Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School complies with equality legislation;
- Ensure all policies, practices and procedures, associated with equality and diversity, including admissions, curriculum, recruitment and selection are implemented;
- To make effective and reasonable adjustments where appropriate to meet the individual needs of staff, young people and others who may have business with Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School
- Ensure that all staff are aware of and follow Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School's policy; and receive appropriate equality and diversity training, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities;
- Take 'all reasonable steps' to prevent discrimination, harassment and victimisation from taking place;
- Take responsibility for recording, managing and analysing incidents of discrimination, harassment and victimisation in accordance with Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School's policies, procedures and guidance. It is the responsibility of all staff to:
- Treat colleagues, young people and visitors with dignity and respect; and avoid behaving in any manner that may give rise to claims of discrimination, harassment or victimisation;
- Support and participate in any measures introduced to promote equality and diversity;
- Actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage in accordance with their responsibilities;
- Report any issues associated with equality and diversity in accordance with this policy.

The Governing Body

It is the Governing Body's responsibility to:

- ensure that the school complies with equality legislation;
- meet requirements to publish equality schemes;
- ensure that the school's policy and its procedures and strategies are carried out and monitored with appropriate impact assessments informing future plans; • scrutinize the recording and reporting procedures at least annually;
- follow the LA's admissions policy, which is fair and equitable in its treatment of all groups;
- monitor attendance and take appropriate action where necessary;
- have equal opportunities in staff recruitment and professional development and membership of the Governing Body;
- provide information in appropriate, accessible formats;
- be involved in dealing with serious breaches of the policy;

The Headteacher

It is the headteacher's responsibility to:

- implement the policy and its strategies and procedures;
- ensure that all staff receive appropriate and relevant continuous professional development;
- actively challenge and take appropriate action in any cases of discriminatory practice;
- deal with any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with LA guidance;
- ensure that all visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the school's equality and diversity policy;
- produce a report on progress for governors annually.

All Staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- be vigilant in all areas of the school for any type of harassment and bullying; deal effectively with all incidents from overt name-calling to the more subtle forms of victimisation caused by perceived differences;
- identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and in the school's culture;
- promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on grounds of race, gender, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation;
- promote an inclusive curriculum and whole school ethos which reflects our diverse society;
- keep up to date with equality legislation, development and issues by attending relevant training and accessing information from appropriate sources.

Breaches of the Policy

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the Governing Body and LA as required. An employee is **personally responsible** for their own acts of discrimination, harassment or victimisation carried out during their employment, whether or not the employer is also liable. Any attempt to instruct, cause or induce another person to discriminate, harass or victimise a third person will also amount to unlawful discrimination and any employee doing so will be subject to disciplinary action.

5. Duty to make reasonable adjustments

We will actively seek to make reasonable adjustments, where there is a need to ensure that a disabled person has the same access to everything as a non-disabled person, as far as is reasonable. We will take positive and proactive steps to remove, reduce or prevent the obstacles faced by a disabled individual, as far as is reasonable. For further information, visit the Equality and Human Rights Commission website at: www.equalityhumanrights.com

6. Admissions policy

Our admissions criteria are defined under the admissions policy and are applied consistently to every young person, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

7. Curriculum delivery

The curriculum is crucial to tackling inequalities for pupils including gender stereotyping, preventing bullying and raising attainment for certain groups. The principles of equality and diversity are embedded in our academic and social curriculum.

Positive and proactive steps will be taken to prevent discrimination against, or victimisation of, any young person in the provision of education or access to any benefit, facility or service including educational trips, work experience and leisure activities.

8. Exclusion policy

The decision to exclude a child for a fixed period or permanently is a **last resort**. Our exclusion criteria are defined under the exclusion policy and are applied consistently to every young person, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

9. Recruitment and selection

All employees, whether part-time, full-time, temporary or permanent will be treated fairly and equally.

We will avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and selection for redundancy. Selections will be made on the basis of aptitude, ability and/or merit. Brant Broughton CE Methodist Primary School will endeavour to make all reasonable and effective adjustments during the recruitment and selection process.

10. Reporting and recording incidents of discrimination and harassment

All incidents of discriminatory treatment, bullying and harassment must be reported to senior staff and recorded as soon as is reasonably possible (and in any event within 24 hours of the incident). All bullying-related incidents (confirmed or otherwise), will be addressed in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

11. Complaints and grievances

If an individual believes that they have been discriminated against, harassed or victimised, they are asked to follow our complaints or grievance procedure.

Approved by the Governing Body:

Date: _____

Chair of Governors:_____

Headteacher:_____

Date of Review: September 2026

APPENDIX 1 Further information about equality and diversity

1. Types of unlawful discrimination

Direct discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex sexual orientation).

Discrimination by association is direct discrimination against someone because they associate with another person who possesses a protected characteristic.

Perception discrimination is direct discrimination against an individual because others think they possess a particular protected characteristic. It applies even if the person does not actually possess that characteristic.

Indirect Discrimination occurs when a condition, provision, policy or practice applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic and it cannot be shown to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Discrimination arising from disability occurs when you treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and cannot justify such treatment.

Discrimination arising from disability is different from direct and indirect discrimination.

Harassment occurs when a person is subject to “unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual”.

Third-party harassment occurs where, during the course of their duties, an employee is harassed by an individual or individuals who are not under the direct control of Arc School and the harassment relates to a protected characteristic.

Victimisation occurs when an individual is subject to a detriment because they have made an allegation of, or given evidence about, the treatment of any individual (including themselves) who has been subject to any of the above.

Any individual making allegations of a false, malicious or vexatious nature would not be protected against victimisation and will be subject to disciplinary action.