

The Marlborough Science Academy GP09 – Equality Policy	
Responsible Governing Body Committee:	Personnel Committee
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Other policies relating to this policy

GP50 – Code of Conduct Policy

GP57 – Harassment and Bullying Policy

GP45 – Recruitment Policy

GP23 – Whole School Behaviour Policy

GP02 – Curriculum Policy

Accessibility Plan

Single Equality Policy

At The Marlborough Science Academy, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all students, staff, parents and carers receiving services from our school, irrespective of race, gender, gender reassignment, disability, faith or religion, socio-economic background or any other **protected** characteristic. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to our school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life. **In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, we understand our duty to make reasonable adjustments to support students with disabilities or other protected characteristics. This includes implementing strategies to aid attendance, such as adjusted start times, additional pastoral support, and access to technology where appropriate, as well as collaborating with external agencies to remove barriers to education. These adjustments must remain reasonable and should not compromise the integrity of the curriculum, create undue hardship for the school, or remove the expectation of regular attendance.**

Attendance remains a safeguarding priority, and persistent non-attendance without valid justification may be addressed through the school's attendance policy and, where necessary, referral to external agencies such as the County Attendance Team or Children's Services.

We will ensure that all equality strands are woven into the everyday working of our school, particularly in relation to formulating policy and practice around both delivery of our service and employment but also in relation to other functions such as setting budgets, making appointments and funding.

The progress of all our students will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support students, raise standards and ensure high quality inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment in which we respect all and shape futures. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to reflect how we are integrating equality into the school's core priorities and functions, which enables us to:

- Demonstrate how promoting equality and eliminating discrimination can help to raise standards.
- Ensure that equality and diversity are part of the school's core business both as a provider of education and as an employer.
- Promote community cohesion and good relations between students and staff of different backgrounds through education.
- Place the school in a position, which is regarded by everyone as an environment that affords respect and fair treatment of all.

Applicability

This Equality Policy applies to all of the school's students, staff, governors, parents/carers, visitors and community users.

The policy supports our responsibilities in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This states that, in carrying out their functions, public bodies, including schools, are required to have due regard to the need to:-

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

The Equality Act 2010 has broadened the groups that are protected to include nine protected characteristics. We all have one or more of the protected characteristics, so the Act protects everyone against unfair treatment. The protected characteristics are:-

(i) **Age:** where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds).

(ii) **Disability:** a person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

(iii) **Gender Reassignment:** the process of transitioning from one gender to another.

(iv) **Marriage and Civil Partnership:**

In England and Wales marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).

(v) **Pregnancy and Maternity:** Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

(vi) **Race:** Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

(vii) **Religion or Belief:** Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

(viii) **Sex:** A man or a woman.

(ix) **Sexual Orientation:** Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

This plan extends, however, to cover all aspects of vulnerability, Children Looked After and those with Child Protection plans.

Aims and Objectives

At **The Marlborough Science Academy**, we will ensure compliance with relevant legislation and that no one with a protected characteristic receives less favourable treatment.

We aim to provide all our students with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of students.
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability and action any gaps.
- Take account of the achievement of all students when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets.
- Ensure equality of access for all students and prepare them for life in a diverse society.
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population, and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping.
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice.
- Provide opportunities for students to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.
- Seek to involve all parents/carers in supporting their child's education.

- Encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations, and the impact on learning.
- Community cohesion The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between students from different races, faiths / beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, skills, behaviours and experiences that a student can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. Cultural capital represents the key ingredients that a student will draw upon to be successful in society, their career, and the world of work.
- Cultural capital gives a student greater influence. It helps them to achieve goals, become successful and rise the social ladder without necessarily having the wealth or financial capital to do so. At Marlborough, cultural capital is developed across the whole curriculum through personal, social, physical, spiritual, moral and cultural development. An outline of these can be seen below:

Personal Development

- An ambitious, knowledge-based curriculum which is focused on helping students to remember things in the long term
- Careers Education Information and Guidance, including work experience and careers events.
- PSHCEE provision
- The school's wider pastoral support framework including house assemblies, rewards and sanctions, attendance support and the school's behavioural expectations
- Transition support as children move between years and beyond Y13
- Mental health and wellbeing provision through the pastoral team
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) through PSHCEE
- Safeguarding procedures for all students in our care

Social Development

- The PSHCEE curriculum
- The assembly programme linked to British and school values.
- Yr 11 Mentoring programme
- Charitable work and fundraising
- Student voice, developed through the student parliament.

Physical Development

- The PE curriculum

- Healthy eating through food technology, the school canteen and catering providers
- Health Education through the PSHCEE
- Extra-curricular activities including sport, Duke of Edinburgh, field trips and other provision after school.
- Sports Day and the celebration of sporting achievements through the house system
- The promotion of walking and cycling to school

Spiritual Development

- The Philosophy and ethics curriculum
- The assembly programme
- Support for the expression of individual faiths
- Visiting speakers

Moral Development

- The Philosophy and ethics curriculum
- The school's behaviour system
- Contribution to local and national charitable projects
- Environmental projects – recycling
- The PSHCEE programme

Cultural Development

- The art curriculum, including visits to national galleries and local museums.
- The music curriculum including peripatetic teaching, and choir.
- Access to modern foreign languages, including trips abroad.
- The English curriculum and associated theatre visits to support learning.
- Author visits to work with groups of students.
- Cultural trips such as those to France, Italy, World Challenge
- In addition to whole school provision and development of cultural capital, each curriculum area or faculty, makes its own contribution to students' cultural capital development.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiative

- Diversity group of selected students trained.
- Students organized events such as World Religion Week, Black History Month and LGBT awareness.
- A meeting room has been provided in the school for the GSA (Gay, Straight Alliance) group.
- A group of students were trained as part of the schools anti-bullying work.
- Students actively participated into a review into ethnicity and diversity in the school.

Reasonable Adjustments

At The Marlborough Science Academy we are aware of our duty under the Equality Act 2010 to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled members of our school community. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on the student's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Schools may, and often must, treat disabled pupils more favourably than non-disabled pupils by making reasonable adjustments to ensure that a disabled pupil can benefit from what they offer to the same extent that a pupil without a disability can. The Equality Act 2010 extends the reasonable adjustment duty to require schools to provide auxiliary aids and services to disabled pupils.

While the school is committed to making reasonable adjustments, these must be proportionate and practical, ensuring they do not compromise the integrity of the curriculum or create an unfair disadvantage for other students.

At the Marlborough Science Academy we take positive steps to ensure that disabled students, staff and visitors can fully participate in the education provided by the school and that they can enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services that we provide for others.

We maintain an accessibility plan that will be resourced and implemented as appropriate. The plan is reviewed annually and is available to view on the academy website.

Not all students with SEN will meet the legal definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. The school will assess whether a student's needs meet the legal threshold for disability when considering reasonable adjustments.

Staff, recruitment, professional development and training

The Marlborough Science Academy comply fully with legislation that protects our staff (including teacher, teaching assistants, supervisors and trainee teachers) from discrimination on the grounds of gender, transgender status, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age. With regard to disability, we make reasonable adjustments as are necessary to prevent a disabled person being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to a person who is not disabled. This includes discrimination in relation to recruitment, terms and conditions, transfers, dismissals, training and employment practices (e.g. dress codes) and disciplinary procedures. We commit to the following;

- Make effort to ensure that the diversity of our workforce reflects that of our local community and wider society.
- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and act on incidents of harassment and discrimination.
- Provide regular training for staff to enable them to recognise and deal effectively with prejudice related incidents.

The Marlborough Science Academy is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all and ensuring that all stages of recruitment and selection are fair. Recruitment and selection procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation. Marlborough acknowledges that unfair discrimination can arise on occasion and so will ensure that the equal opportunities policy outlined in this plan is the foundation for all its activities.

Where a candidate is known personally to a member of the selection panel it will be declared before shortlisting takes place. It may then be necessary to change the selection panel to ensure that there is no conflict of interest and that equal opportunities principles are adhered to.

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 head teacher and governing body.

Roles and responsibilities

General Duty under the Equality Act 2010

The purpose of this policy is to set out how our practice and policies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having “due regard” means that whenever we make decisions, take action or develop policy, we must assess whether there is an impact to any of the groups with protected characteristics, and that the equality duty must be integrated into school functions.

Our Specific Duties to enable us to meet our obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED):

The Specific Duties require us to:

- a) Publish annually information quantitative and qualitative, showing compliance with the PSED set out in clause 149 of the Equality Act 2010
- b) Set every four years one or more specific measurable equality objectives that further the aims of the equality duty

The responsibilities of the Governing Body

- To adopt and monitor the Equality Policy and equality objectives.
- Ensure the school takes all reasonable steps to ensure that its employees do not carry out unlawful discriminatory actions or behaviour.
- Support and guide the school to have 'due regard' for equality in all its functions.
- Ensure the school complies with the two 'specific' duties to publish equality information and objectives.
- To designate a named governor with responsibility in this area to ensure that the school eliminates unlawful discrimination and promotes equality of opportunity.

The Head teacher

The Head teacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

All staff are expected to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms.
- deal with, and report, any prejudice-related incidents that may occur.
- support all students in their classes.
- keep up to date with equalities legislation relevant to their work
- have an inclusive and collaborative approach to their dealings with each other.

Students are expected to:

- treat each other with respect and courtesy.
- explore diversity with a healthy and positive approach.
- value diversity
- speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour or feel that they have been treated unfairly.

SMSC

How we foster excellent relations and promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development: We believe that SMSC is an integral aspect of school life and as such it permeates through teaching and learning, the pastoral system, assemblies and relationships preparing our community for living and working in modern day Britain and adhering to British and our School's values.

- We provide all students with opportunities to learn about the experiences and achievements of different communities and cultures.
- We ensure that the humanities curriculum challenges racism and stereotypes through teaching about key historical and political events.
- Events are calendared throughout the year to celebrate difference and to raise awareness. These may be the focus of lessons in KS3 or and our weekly reflections.
- The curriculum is supported by resources that provide positive images that reflect the diverse communities of modern Britain and our school community.
- Photos are selected to advertise the school and around the school to show a variety of difference ethnicities and cultures.

Bullying or harassment based on race, ethnicity and culture are dealt with in line with the whole school behaviour policy. Incidents which prejudice behaviour are recorded and reported to SLT on a weekly basis and trends are reported to governors on a termly basis, with patterns are recognised and discussed. Follow up work is completed with the students who have been involved in any prejudice behaviour.

Monitoring and review

This single equality plan will be reviewed annually by the governing body, unless there is specific reason for it to be reviewed earlier (for example an incident involving members of the school community or new legislation). Governors will review how effective it is in tackling discrimination, promoting access and participation, equality and good relationships between different groups, and that it does not disadvantage particular sections of the community. Governors will also review evidence that it is being put into practice in school by staff and students, and whether there is any need for extra training or development sessions across the whole school to ensure it is promoted and implemented as much as possible.

Information will be gathered through:

- identification of children and young people, parents, carers, staff and other users of the school representing the different protected characteristics. This helps us develop and monitor the scheme. Comprehensive and sensitive efforts are made to collect accurate information and meet security of information requirements, in addition to our duty to secure accurate information relating to ethnicity and first language.
- student attainment and progress data relating to different groups.
- children's and young peoples' views, actively sought and incorporated in a way that values their contribution.
- information about how different groups access the whole curriculum and how they make choices between subject options.

- sports and activities choices of all groups.
- uptake of the extended school offer by group.
- exclusions data analysed by group.
- records of bullying and harassment on the grounds of any equality issue.
- data on the recruitment, development, and retention of employees.
- outcomes of actions taken to secure the involvement of parents and others who have been identified as difficult to engage.

At regular intervals throughout the year the senior leadership team will provide **monitoring reports** for review by the governing body. These will include:

- progress against targets relating to equality and future plans
- school population
- recruitment and retention
- key initiatives.

This policy links to other policies and in general the principles of equality will apply to all other school policies.

Published Data

We will publish the following data on the school's website: -

- Equality Objectives will be reviewed at least every year.

Concerns or complaints

In the first instance a senior member of staff should be contacted. If issues or concerns remain unresolved these should be raised in accordance with the schools Complaints Policy.

Check list for school staff and governors.

- The school collects information on race, disability and gender with regards to both students and staff, e.g., student achievement, attendance, exclusions and staff training.
- The school analyses student achievement in terms of progress and standards for different groups and takes action when the trends or patterns indicate a need.
- The school sets Equality Objectives to improve outcomes for vulnerable students and monitors progress on reaching these objectives.
- The school ensures that all staff understand and implement the key requirements of the Equality Policy.
- The curriculum includes opportunities for all students to understand and celebrate diversity and difference.
- All groups of students are encouraged to participate in school life and make a positive contribution, e.g., through class assemblies and student voice.
- The school monitors bullying and harassment of students in terms of difference and diversity (i.e., different groups) and takes action if there is a cause for concern.
- Visual displays and multi-media resources reflect the diversity of the school community.
- Minority ethnic, disabled and both male and female role models and those of vulnerable groups are promoted positively in lessons, displays, discussions and class assemblies.
- The school environment is accessible to students, staff and visitors to the school.
- Open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend are held in accessible parts of the school and issues such as language barriers are considered.
- The accessibility needs of parents, students and staff are considered in the publishing and sending out of information.