



Equality Information & Objectives **at Sherborne Abbey School**

1. Aims and School context

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- 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 characteristics and people who do not share it.

This table gives a snapshot of our school populations. In order to meet our equality duties, we use data, policies and procedures to identify and meet the needs of all pupils in our school and set objectives.

September 2024 EYFS 337 on roll	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Overall
Number of Pupils 37	43	56	45	59	47	50	337
Male 51% (19)	58% (25)	37% (21)	40% (18)	58% (34)	45% (21)	38% (19)	47% (157)
Female 49% (18)	42% (18)	63% (35)	60% (27)	42% (25)	55% (26)	62% (31)	53% (180)
Pupil Premium 0% (0)	14% (6)	20% (11)	18% (8)	24% (14)	26% (12)	30% (15)	20% (66)
Free School Meals 3% (1)	19% (8)	21% (12)	20% (9)	24% (13)	30% (14)	32% (16)	22% (73)
Special Educational Needs 11% (4)	14% (6)	21% (12)	24% (11)	19% (11)	19% (9)	24% (12)	19% (65)
English as an additional Language 9% (4)	5% (2)	0% (0)	4% (2)	8% (5)	6% (3)	10% (5)	6% (21)

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- The [Equalities Act 2010](#), which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination.
- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives.
- This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: [The Equality Act 2010 and schools](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Academy Committee will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years.
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the Head of School.

The Executive Head and Head of School will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils.
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to the Academy Committee..

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in point 8 of this policy.

4. Eliminating discrimination

The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and our Academy Committee are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings, where this has been discussed it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training.

5. Advancing equality of opportunity.

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g., pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying).
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g., understanding the needs of pupils fasting during Ramadan).
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g., encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school clubs/societies).

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing.
- Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information.
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g., declines in incidents of homophobic bullying or racist language incidents).
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils.

6. Fostering good relations

The school aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, citizenship and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English / reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures.
- Holding Collective Worship dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite external speakers to contribute.
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community.
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our School Council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs.
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach.

7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the school considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays.
- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities.
- Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls.

The school keeps a written record (known as an Equality Impact Assessment) to show we have actively considered our equality duties and asked ourselves relevant questions. This can be recorded at the same time as the risk assessment when planning school trips and activities that may include equality decisions (*if relevant*). The record is completed by the member of staff organising the activity and is stored electronically with the completed risk assessment.

8. Equality objectives.

Objective 1: To ensure that vulnerable groups of children continue to make excellent progress and the attainment gap continues to close between them and their peers through targeted use of funding streams e.g., pupil premium, SEND, FSM (Free School Meals & deprivation).

Objective 2: To continue to promote an atmosphere of tolerance and respect, including of people with disabilities or of different religious or ethnic backgrounds through the work on British & Christian values (such as SIAMS), which is interspersed through the curriculum.

Objective 3: To ensure that vulnerable groups of children are able to access extra curricular opportunities through targeted use of funding streams.

Objective 4: To ensure high attendance for all groups of children at our schools. This will particularly target disadvantaged & SEND children

9. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher will update the equality information we publish, described in sections 4-7 above, at least every year.

This document will be reviewed and approved by the Academy Committee at least every four years.