



## **1. Compliance**

1.1. This equality statement and objectives has been prepared with due regard to the following statutory provisions and guidance:

1.1.1. Equality Act 2010;

1.1.2. Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011; and,

1.1.3. Equality and Human Rights Commission, “Technical guidance for schools in England” July 2014.

1.1.4. Equality and Human Rights Commission, “Technical guidance on the public sector equality duty: England”, February 2021

## **2. About this statement**

2.1. The Heath Family NW Multi Academy Trust (“the Trust”) has developed this Equality Statement to help to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010.

2.2. The Equality Act’s provisions cover all aspects of school life within all of the Trust’s schools, such as the treatment of:-

2.2.1. pupils and prospective and past pupils;

2.2.2. parents and carers;

2.2.3. employees; and,

2.2.4. the local community.

2.3. The act covers nine protected characteristics, which cannot be used as a reason to treat people unfairly. The protected characteristics are:-

2.3.1. sex;

2.3.2. disability;

2.3.3. race;

2.3.4. age;

2.3.5. gender reassignment;

2.3.6. marriage and civil partnership;

2.3.7. pregnancy and maternity;

2.3.8. religion or belief; and,

2.3.9. sexual orientation.

2.4. The Equality Act makes it unlawful to treat someone differently, either through direct or indirect discrimination, harassment, and victimisation or by failing to make a reasonable adjustment for a disabled person.



### 3. Statement

3.1. The Trust is bound by the PSED to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, and equality of opportunity.

3.2. The specific duty on the Trust is to:

3.2.1. publish information to demonstrate how the Trust are complying with the PSED; and,

3.2.2. to prepare and publish equality objectives.

### 4. Guiding principles

4.1. In fulfilling the legal obligations cited above, the Trust are guided by the following principles:

4.1.1. **Principle 1:** All pupils are of equal value

The Trust see all pupils and potential pupils, and their parents and carers, as of equal value:

4.1.1.1. whether or not they are disabled;

4.1.1.2. whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status;

4.1.1.3. whatever their gender and gender identity;

4.1.1.4. whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background; and,

4.1.1.5. whatever their sexual identity.

4.1.2. **Principle 2:** The Trust recognise and respect difference

Treating people equally (Principle 1 above) does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. The Trust's policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face, in relation to:

4.1.2.1. disability, so that reasonable adjustments are made;

4.1.2.2. ethnicity, so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised;

4.1.2.3. gender, so that the different needs and experiences of girls and boys, and women and men, are recognised;

4.1.2.4. religion, belief or faith background; or,

4.1.2.5. sexual identity.

4.1.3. **Principle 3:** The Trust foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging

The Trust intends that its policies, procedures and activities should promote:

4.1.3.1. positive attitudes towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people;

4.1.3.2. positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status;



4.1.3.3. an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents;

4.1.3.4. mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, and women and men; and,

4.1.3.5. an absence of sexual and homophobic harassment.

4.1.4. **Principle 4:** The Trust observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development

The Trust ensure that policies and procedures should benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development:

4.1.4.1. whatever their age;

4.1.4.2. whether or not they are disabled;

4.1.4.3. whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status;

4.1.4.4. whatever their gender and sexual identity; and,

4.1.4.5. with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.

4.1.5. **Principle 5:** The Trust aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of the Trust policies, the Trust will take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between:

4.1.5.1. disabled and non-disabled people;

4.1.5.2. people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds; and

4.1.5.3. girls and boys, women and men.

4.1.6. **Principle 6:** The Trust consult and involve widely

The Trust engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. The Trust consult and involve:

4.1.6.1. disabled people as well as non-disabled;

4.1.6.2. people from a range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds;

4.1.6.3. both women and men, and both girls and boys; and,

4.1.6.4. people of different sexual orientation.

4.1.7. **Principle 7:** The Trust bases its policies and practices on sound evidence

The Trust maintains and publishes quantitative and qualitative information which shows its compliance with the public sector equality duty (PSED) set out in clause 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and on the basis of which the Trust decide on specific and measurable objectives.

4.1.8. **Principle 8:** Measurable objectives

The Trust formulate and publish specific and measurable objectives, based on the consultations the Trust conducts (principle 6) and the evidence the Trust have collected and published (principle 7). The objectives



which the Trust identify take into account national and local priorities and issues, as appropriate. The Trust will keep its equality objectives under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

## **5. The curriculum**

5.1. The Trust and its schools keep each curriculum subject or area under review in order to ensure that teaching and learning reflect the principles set out above.

## **6. Ethos and organisation**

6.1. The Trust ensures that the principles listed above apply to the full range of its policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- 6.1.1. pupils' progress, attainment and achievement;
- 6.1.2. pupils' personal development, welfare and well-being;
- 6.1.3. teaching styles and strategies;
- 6.1.4. admissions and attendance;
- 6.1.5. staff recruitment, retention and professional development;
- 6.1.6. care, guidance and support;
- 6.1.7. behaviour, discipline and exclusions;
- 6.1.8. working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians;
- 6.1.9. working with the wider community; and,
- 6.1.10. addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying.

6.2. The Trust is opposed to all forms of prejudice which stand in the way of fulfilling its legal duties under the Equality Act for example:

- 6.2.1. prejudices around disability and special educational needs;
- 6.2.2. prejudices around racism and xenophobia, including those that are directed towards religious groups and communities, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and those that are directed against travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum; or,
- 6.2.3. prejudices reflecting sexism and homophobia.

6.3. The Trust keeps a record of prejudice-related incidents and, if requested, provide a report about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents and how they are dealt with.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

7.1. The Trust Board is responsible for ensuring that the Trust complies with Equality Act legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.



7.2. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing the policy across the Trust, each school Principal/Head of School is responsible for its implementation at each school; 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. Also for taking steps to ensure that contractors working at the Trust operate within the requirements of this Equality Statement.

7.3. Each School Senior Leadership Team are responsible for supporting their Principal/Head of School as above and ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record and report prejudice related incidents.

7.4. All **teaching staff** are expected to:

- 7.4.1. promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom;
- 7.4.2. deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur;
- 7.4.3. plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect the principles set out above;
- 7.4.4. support pupils in their class for whom English is an additional language;
- 7.4.5. keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work; and,
- 7.4.6. record and report prejudice related incidents

7.5. All **support staff** are expected to:

- 7.5.1. support the Trust Board in delivering a fair and equitable service to all stakeholders;
- 7.5.2. uphold the commitment made by the Principal/Head of School on how pupils and parents/carers can be expected to be treated; and,
- 7.5.3. record and report prejudice related incidents.

7.6. All **pupils** are expected to:

- 7.6.1. support the School/Trust to achieve the commitment made to tackling inequality; and,
- 7.6.2. uphold the commitment made by the Principal/Head of School on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider community can be expected to be treated; ensuring that members of the Trust community are not subject to inequality.

7.7. All **parents** are expected to:

- 7.7.1. take an active part in identifying barriers for the Trust community and in informing the School Principal/Trust Board of actions that can be taken to eradicate these.
- 7.7.2. take an active role in supporting and challenging the Trust to achieve the commitment given to the Trust's community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.

## 8. Information and resources

8.1. The Trust ensure that the content of this policy is known to all staff and Trust Directors/School Governors and, as appropriate, to all pupils and their parents and carers

8.2. All staff and Trust Directors/School Governors have access to a selection of resources which discuss and explain concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion in appropriate detail.



8.3. The Trust will ensure that all teaching and support staff receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

**9. The Trust's Equality Objectives**

- 9.1. to narrow the gap in performance of boys vs girls across all key stages;
- 9.2. to narrow the gap in performance of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities across all key stages;
- 9.3. to increase participation by BME pupils in after school activities;
- 9.4. to increase understanding between religious groups;
- 9.5. to increase participation by girls in STEM subjects;
- 9.6. continued analysis of vulnerable pupils by identifying and planning provision for vulnerable groups;
- 9.7. support and deliver tailored provision for pupils displaying complex learning needs;
- 9.8. continued development and consolidation of the student voice at each school;
- 9.9. to continue to monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act upon any trends or patterns in this data that require additional support for pupils;
- 9.10. to continue to monitor and improve attendance of all groups of children at the Trust;
- 9.11. to review levels of parental and pupil engagement in learning and school life, across all activities to ensure equity and fairness in access and engagement; and,
- 9.12. to ensure the Trust's environment is as accessible as possible to all pupils, staff and visitors.

**10. Policy access**

- 10.1. A copy of this policy will be displayed on the Trust's website and issued to all appropriate staff members employed by the Trust.