Cornerstone Schools (Barton. East Cowton and Ravensworth CE Primary School)

Equality Policy Statement & Objectives

Document first issued	February 2025	
Review frequency	annual	
Last review date	April 2026	
Next review date	February 2027	
Ratified by Governors	Helen Audritt – chair of governors 17th April 2026 To be minuted at LGB meeting 21 May 2026 Supersedes previous ratification	
Policy Author	K. Petch, Headteacher	
Amendments to policy & review history	**Date**	**By whom**
Policy issued	February 2025	KP
Communication	Teams, Wedsite & available on request	

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Introductory notes

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced fully in April 2011 and there is no longer a requirement that schools should draw up and publish equality schemes or policies. However, it is still good practice for a school to make a statement about the principles according to which it assesses the impact on equality of its policies and practices, and according to which it establishes specific objectives.

We must under the general duty of public sector equality duty, in the exercise of our functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited 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.

This will apply to all pupils, staff and others using the facilities. We will give relevant and proportionate consideration to the public sector equality duty.

The protected characteristics for the school's provisions are:

- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Age (not applicable to pupils)
- Marriage and Civil Partnerships (not applicable pupils)

Age and marriage and civil partnership are NOT protected characteristics for the school's provisions for pupils.

We will have **due regard** to advancing equality of opportunity including making serious consideration of the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristics that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

We will take into account the six Brown principles of 'due regard'

- **awareness** – all staff know and understand what the law requires
- **timeliness** – implications considered before they are implemented
- **rigour** – open-minded and rigorous analysis, including parent/pupil voice
- **non-delegation** – the Public Sector Equality Duty cannot be delegated
- **continuous** – ongoing all academic year
- **record-keeping** – keep notes and records of decisions & meetings

We welcome the opportunity to be transparent and accountable. To this end we fulfil the specific duties of the Act by:

- publishing our equality information
- publishing our equality objectives

We aim to make the information accessible, easy to read and easy to find.

Legal framework

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (as appropriate), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.

We recognise these duties are essential to reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Public Sector Equality Duties 2010.

Principle 1: All learners are of equal value. We see all learners and potential learners, and their parents and carers, as of equal value.
Principle 2: We recognise and respect difference. Treating people equally (Principle 1 above) does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Our 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 barrier and disadvantage which people may face.

Principle 3: We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- positive attitudes towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people
- 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, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents
- mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, and women and men, and an absence of sexual, homophobic and transphobic harassment.
- positive attitudes and understanding of those women pregnant or during maternity.

Principle 4: We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development

We ensure that policies and procedures should benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development.

Principle 5: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist.

Principle 6: We consult and involve widely

People affected by a policy or activity should be consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. We consult and involve all sectors of the school community.

Principle 7: Society as a whole should benefit

We intend that our policies and activities should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in public life.

Principle 8: We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish quantitative and qualitative information about our progress towards greater equality.

Principle 9: Objectives

Every four years we formulate and publish specific and measurable objectives, based on the evidence we have collected and published. The objectives which we identify take into account national and local priorities and issues, as appropriate. We keep our equality objectives under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

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The Curriculum

We continually review each curriculum subject or area in order to ensure that teaching and learning reflect the nine guiding principles.

Ethos and organisation

We ensure the guiding principles apply to the full range of our policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- pupils' progress, attainment and achievement
- pupils' personal development, welfare and well-being
- teaching styles and strategies
- admissions and attendance
- staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- care, guidance and support
- behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- working with the wider community.

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice which stand in the way of fulfilling the legal duties. There is guidance in the staff induction on how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with. In essence, these incidents are recorded using CPOMS, but are 'tagged' differently from other behaviour incidents, in order for a clear overview to be gained – in order to inform planning and education of the school population.

We take seriously the importance of recording the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how they are dealt with. We also investigate potential patterns and trends of incidents.

Roles and responsibilities

The local governing body (LGB) is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. An identified member of the governing body has a supporting role regarding the implementation of this policy (Chair of Governors – CoG).

The headteacher 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.

All staff are expected to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- respond to prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- incorporate the principles of this policy into the curriculum
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

Information and resources
We ensure that the content of this policy is known to all staff and governors and, as appropriate, to all pupils and their parents and carers. It is posted on the school website. All staff and governors are signposted towards a selection of resources which discuss and explain concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion in appropriate detail.

Useful links:

- EASS - Equality Advisory and Support Service (equalityadvisoryservice.com)
- ACAS ACAS Code-Based Employer Helpline - Employers Direct

Religious observance
We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and aim to comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

Staff development and training
We ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development around equalities.

Breaches of the policy
Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in line with the school's disciplinary policy.

Monitoring and evaluation
We collect, study and use quantitative and qualitative data relating to the implementation of this policy, and make adjustments as appropriate. We collect, analyse and use data in relation to achievement, relevant and appropriate to the profile of the school. The monitoring and evaluation of this area of the school's work is undertaken jointly by the executive headteacher and chair of the LGB.

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Equality Objectives – school level | 2024-2027

These objectives have been set by the Headteacher in conjunction with staff, governors and pupils

Our Equalities Objectives are:

1. Equality Strand: Race/Religion
Objective: Monitor the nature of pupils and staff religion as they join the school, in order to continuously respond to their needs appropriately.

2. Equality Strand: Religion
Objective: Gain an accurate picture of pupils own view about their religion and how it is represented in school.

3. Equality Strand: Religion
Objective: Ensure major religious celebrations are celebrated in school and all pupils feel valued.

4. Equality Strand: Disability
Objective: Ensure pupils with disabilities access the full broad and balanced curriculum, in lessons and extra-curricular activities.

5. Equality Strand: Gender
Objective: Ensure pupil, staff and visitor toilet facilities meet the needs of those who do not wish to be segregated by gender.

6. Equality Strand: All
Objective: Ensure the school's curriculum and supporting texts are representative and supportive of all protected characteristics.

Dales Academies Trust also publishes 'Trust Level' Equality Objectives, which can be reviewed at Policy - Dales - Equality and Diversity.pdf (dalesmat.org).

For further information on the Equality Act 2010 and advice for schools, can be seen here: Equality Act 2010: advice for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This policy is monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed every year or before if necessary.