

Note on the Adoption of this Policy

In common with many Buxton Junior School Policies, this policy is a standard policy provided to the school by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) further to discussions with legal experts and trade unions. Whilst the Governing Board is not bound to adopt such policies, the advice of DCC is that the Board would be unwise to deviate from the wording of such a policy given its negotiated context. When reviewing this policy in November 22, the Board was concerned that the wording of the policy in relation to gender, transgender and sexuality issues was significantly dated in a number of aspects. The school discussed these concerns with other local schools who had already referred them directly to DCC. They had received assurances that our concerns will be addressed when this policy is next reviewed by Derbyshire so the Governing Board of Buxton Junior School agreed to adopt the policy at its meeting in November 2022, November 2023 and again in November 2024.

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY
&
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN
EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT**

BUXTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



This policy was approved by the Governing Body:

Signed: (Chair of Governors) Date:

Minute No:

Date for Review: Autumn 2026

Equality & Diversity Policy

Introduction

At Buxton Junior School our vision and values state that we want our children to leave our school with an enhanced understanding and knowledge of the world both locally and globally, valuing diversity and difference, and the importance of equality and inclusivity. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied experiences, abilities and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations of all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter.

This Equality & Diversity Policy extends to adults: staff, parents and carers.

This policy is in accordance with The Equality Act 2010, which replaced all previous legislation in relation to equal opportunities. In line with that legislation, it seeks to ensure that this school provides equal opportunity for all children and adults, giving due regard to groups with 'protected characteristics' in terms of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity and marriage/civil partnership, in accordance with the Act.

Aims and Objectives

- We aim not to discriminate against anyone, be they staff, pupil or parent, on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, age, attainment or background.
- We aim to promote the principle of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school. We recognise that doing this may entail treating some pupils differently.
- We seek to ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.
- We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning for some groups of pupils.
- We aim to ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training processes are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone.
- We aim to challenge personal prejudice and stereotypical views whenever they occur.
- We value each pupil's worth, celebrating the individuality and cultural diversity of our school community, and showing respect for all minority groups.
- We are aware that prejudice and stereotyping are often caused by poor self-image and by ignorance. Through positive educational experiences, and support for each individual's legitimate point of view, we aim to promote positive social attitudes and respect for all.

Racial Equality

At Buxton Junior School we will:

- strive to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination;
- promote equality of opportunity, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion;
- promote good relations between people of different racial and ethnic groups;
- seek to educate pupils in a manner which promotes community cohesion in a multi-cultural society.

We do not tolerate any forms of racism or racist behaviour. Should a racist incident occur, we will deal with it in accordance with school procedures (refer to this Policy and our Behaviour and Relationship Policy).

We endeavour to make our school and its environment welcoming to all ethnic groups. We promote an understanding of diverse cultures through the topics studied by the children and we reflect this in the displays of work shown around the school.

Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for people from all ethnic backgrounds - The children have learnt about festivals within different cultures and we have links with other schools within the UK and Europe.

Disability Equality

Some children at Buxton Junior School may have a medical, sensory or physical disability that they require additional support for. We are committed to meeting these additional needs and take all reasonable steps to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

The school is committed to providing an environment that allows physical/sensory disabled children and adults full access to the school premises and to all areas of learning.

Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with physical/sensory disabilities. For example, they may modify teaching materials or offer alternative activities if children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment.

Gender Equality

We are committed to seeing all individuals and groups of pupils making the best progress possible in our school.

We have put in place a number of measures to raise the achievement of all children. These may include:

- ensuring that the starting points for writing activities capture the interests and imagination of boys and girls alike
- removing gender bias from our resources
- employing a variety of activities to ensure all learning needs are met
- making sure that our school environment promotes positive role models, in relation to learning and achievement
- minimising stereotyping
- focusing on outdoor learning
- providing Forest School to every year group
- providing challenge, competition, and short-term goals
- valuing and celebrating academic achievement in ways which will motivate all children.

If our analysis of pupils' attainment data indicates areas where girls achieve less well than boys – or vice versa - we will take measures to address this discrepancy. These may include:

- ensuring that individuals do not dominate certain lessons, for example by answering the teacher's questions more readily (we use cold calling)
- ensuring that all learning activities are relevant to real life situations and problems
- beginning lessons by clarifying the learning intentions, and giving the 'big picture' and connecting to prior learning
- minimising female and male stereotyping
- using praise and celebration of girls' and boys' achievements in those areas where they may traditionally achieve less well than the opposite gender.

The Role of the Class Teacher

Class teachers recognise the possibility of their own prejudices but do their best to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and with respect. We do not knowingly discriminate against any child.

When selecting classroom material, teachers strive to provide resources which give positive images, and which challenge stereotypical images of minority groups, or of boys and girls.

All staff ensure that the language they use does not reinforce stereotypes or prejudice.

We seek to implement this policy when designing schemes of work, both in our choice of topics to study, and in how we approach sensitive issues.

All our teachers and support staff challenge any incidents of prejudice or racism. We record any incidents and draw them to the immediate attention of the Headteacher.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the Headteacher's role to:

- ensure that the school's policy on Equal Opportunities is implemented effectively.
- ensure that all staff are aware of the school policy on Equal Opportunities and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations.
- ensure that all appointments panels give due regard to this policy, so that no one is discriminated against.
- promote the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum for pupils, and in providing opportunities for professional development for staff.
- promote respect for other people in all aspects of school.
- manage all incidents of unfair treatment – and/or any racist incidents - with due seriousness, and in line with this policy.

The Role of Governors

In this policy statement, the governing body has set out its commitment to equal opportunities, and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that all members of the school community are treated both fairly and equally.

The governing body collects, analyses and evaluates a range of school data. We check that all pupils are making the best possible progress and that no group of pupils is underachieving.

To do this we monitor:

- progress over time
- attainment
- attendance
- exclusions
- rewards and sanctions
- parents' and pupils' questionnaires.

The Governing Body seeks to ensure that people from the 'protected groups' as defined by The Equality Act 2010 are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school. The governors welcome all applications to join the school, whatever background or ethnic group a child may come from.

The Governors take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment properly accommodates people with disabilities.

The Governing Body ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school on account of their gender, religion or race. So, for example, all children have access to the full range of the curriculum, and regulations regarding school uniform will be applied equally to

boys and girls. If a child's religion has a bearing on school uniform, then the school will deal with each case sensitively, and with respect for the child's cultural traditions.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

The governors will therefore:

- monitor the progress of pupils from vulnerable groups – including specific SEN cohorts – and compare it with the progress made by other pupils in the school.
- monitor the staff appointment process, so that no one applying for a post at this school is discriminated against.
- require the Headteacher to report to governors annually on the effectiveness of this policy.
- take into serious consideration any complaints from parents/carers, staff or pupils regarding equal opportunity.
- monitor the school's Positive Relationship Policy and the Exclusion Policy, and the numbers of exclusions, to make sure that all pupils are treated fairly.

Equality and Diversity Statement

Contents

	Page No.
Equality and Diversity Statement	7
Equality Act 2010	8
Monitoring and Evaluation	9
Effect on other Policies and Procedures	10
Changes to Employees' Circumstances	10
Complaints and Resolution of Disputes	10
Equality Policy Statements:	
Disability	10
Race Equality	12
Sex/Gender Equality	13
Gender Re-assignment	14
Sexual Orientation	14
Marriage and Civil Partnership	15
Pregnancy and Maternity	15
Age Equality	15
Rehabilitation of Offenders	16
Harassment and Bullying	16

Equality and Diversity Statement

This document sets out the school's commitment to advancing equality and celebrating the diversity of the community, specifically in relation to the school's role as employer.

The School's Commitment

The Governing Body, Headteacher and staff are committed to advancing equality of opportunity and providing fair access and treatment in employment and in delivering education. Buxton Junior School is dedicated to ensuring that all members of the school community and the wider community are treated equally, fairly, and with respect by the school and by each other. This document should be read in conjunction with the school's 'School Equality Policy' (or Single Equality Plan, as appropriate.) The policy sets out how the school will promote equality of opportunity regardless of gender, transgender, race, disability, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation, in both the delivery of its services and the employment of its staff.

All Governors, the Headteacher and staff, acting on behalf of the school are responsible for implementing the policy and have a continuing duty to challenge all forms of discrimination.

Specific Undertakings in relation to Employment

We will:

- Comply with and embrace equality law and good practice, including carrying out the public sector duty to promote equality.
- Secure advice and training to ensure that Governors, Headteacher and staff understand the implications of the policy, the relevant legislation and their responsibilities.
- Carry out recruitment fairly and effectively, promoting the school as an employer people are proud to work for and seeking to achieve a balanced workforce which reflects the diversity of the community, wherever possible.
- Conduct all staff appointments and promotions on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.
- Provide all employees with opportunities to influence the development of policies and practice.
- Promote and support education and training to increase awareness and eliminate discrimination.
- Regularly monitor, assess and consult on the impact of the school's policies and procedures to ensure they are fair and reflect staff's different needs and opinions.
- Promote and support the principles of equal pay and conditions for employment.
- Not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as discrimination, bullying and harassment at work, and take necessary action to address it.

- Celebrate the diversity of Derbyshire within the school and support initiatives for greater equality and awareness.
- Make reasonable adjustments in services, education and employment in line with legal duties.
- Embed equality and consideration of diversity into everyday activities.
To do this, the school expects all staff to:
 - Treat everyone with dignity and respect at all times
 - Provide the best standards of service to all members of the school community
 - Consider the needs and opinions of all groups
 - Embed the advancement of equality and diversity within the school's objectives

Equality Act 2010

As a public authority the Governing Body must comply with its legal duties contained within the Equality Act 2010 and associated regulations.

Section 149 of the Equality Act created a single public sector equality duty (PSED) covering all strands of discrimination law.

The School's Governing Body recognises its public sector equality duty and in carrying out their functions will have due regard to the following matters when exercising this duty:

- the elimination of discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
- advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it,
- fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Governing Body recognises the duty to have 'due regard' to equality considerations whenever significant decisions or policies are being developed.

The specific duties require schools:

- to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with PSED, and
- to prepare and publish equality objectives.

Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 offers protection to people with 'protected characteristics'.

These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body annually providing information on employees within the school, as provided for in individual relevant policies (e.g., Recruitment & Selection, Appraisal), according to the protected characteristics in relation to the categories listed in 1.2 above. *(Although schools must publish information relating to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic who are affected by their policies and practices, data about employees does not need to be published where there are fewer than 150 employees. Therefore, for most schools only pupil related data will need to be published. Where a school decides to publish some employee related statistics to demonstrate that they are complying with the general duty, they must ensure that individuals are not able to be identified.)*
- The Governing Body will review annually any records which show how it has had due regard to the equality duty in making workforce decisions. That is, show conscious consideration of the elimination of the discrimination, the advancement of equality of opportunity and the fostering of good relations when making decisions as an employer.
- The Governing Body will monitor:
 - Relevant performance information
 - Data on recruitment, development and retention of employees
 - Records of any cases of bullying and harassment on the grounds of any equality issue
 - Satisfaction surveys and complaints
 - Any quantitative or qualitative research
 - Feedback, engagement exercises with staff and/or Trade Unions
- The Governing Body will monitor regularly and review annually the outcomes of the Equality Objective(s) set. *(It is likely that these will relate to pupils rather than staff.)*
- The Governing Body will review the impact of the policy on an ongoing basis through analysis of monitoring information.
- This policy will be regularly reviewed at least every two years and sooner if necessary to reflect any changes in legislation, directives and codes of practice.

The Governing Body recognises that applicants for posts and employees need to be informed why they are being asked for monitoring information. They may be worried about how the information will be used. No one will be treated less favourably for not supplying monitoring information as they are not required to do so.

Individual data will be processed fairly and lawfully in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and any subsequent legislation. It will only be shared in compliance with the data protection principles. Data will be securely stored in line with data protection rules and kept for no longer than necessary. In publishing any data, the school needs to ensure that individuals' confidentiality will not be breached and that information is not revealed that would enable someone to work out confidential details of another employee. The school will anonymise data for publication and where the numbers involved are small and consider carefully whether it would be possible for a reader to reach conclusions about information provided in confidence

which if published would breach the Data Protection Act. (LA guidance on data protection can be found on the DerbyshireSchoolsNet under Freedom of Information).

Effect on Other Policies and Procedures

The Governing Body will ensure that, where relevant, the school's policies and procedures will take into account fully the Equality Act 2010. These will include:

- Recruitment and Selection
- Appraisal and Continuing Professional Development
- Management of Sickness Absence Procedure
- Redundancy and Restructuring Procedures
- Professional Competence of Teachers
- Teachers' Pay Policy
- Grievance and Harassment
- Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing)
- Disciplinary Procedure

The school is committed to ensuring that all school staff are treated fairly and consistently and this is held to account through our staff discipline, code of conduct, grievance and harassment procedures. The education and wellbeing of our pupils is the main priority. The relevant school policy will be applied to any member of staff who creates a barrier to learning for our pupils. The Appraisal Policy provides information on how the school monitors teachers' performance. We hope that all staff will feel able to voice complaints and grievances in the confidential environment of the school and that they will trust the school to deal with their grievances fully, promptly and fairly.

Changes to Employees' Circumstances

The Governing Body encourages, and would like to emphasise the need for, employees to inform the Headteacher and Governors of any material change in their circumstances which could affect their working conditions and the application of this policy, including any change in their status with regard to the protected characteristics. The Governing Body also encourages employees to seek advice from their union if required.

Complaints and Resolution of Disputes

If the school receives a complaint relating to any aspect of this Policy which cannot be resolved informally the complaint will be dealt through the school's Complaints Procedure for External Complainants and, for employees, through relevant employment policies – e.g. harassment, grievance.

All employees including those of the Governing Body have a contractual obligation to comply with this policy and the school's Equality statements set out below.

Equality Policy Statements

The school is committed to the following policy statements:

Disability

The Governing Body is committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality of opportunity in the field of employment. It will, therefore, fulfil its legal obligations in accordance with the Equality Act and any related or subsequent legislation including seeking to identify and remove all unjustified direct and indirect discrimination, harassment or

victimisation. It is also unlawful to discriminate against a person by association (e.g., a relative of the disabled person), or to discriminate owing to a perception that a person is disabled.

The school will comply with the act by considering whether:

- the way the organisation runs,
- any physical feature of the school site,
- the absence of an auxiliary aid or service

puts a disabled employee or job applicant at a substantial disadvantage compared with a person who is not disabled. In these circumstances reasonable adjustments must be made to remove or reduce the substantial disadvantage.

The Governing Body will not discriminate against candidates applying for vacancies within the school. (See Recruitment and Selection Policy).

Particular consideration will therefore be given to the following:

- Application forms
- Not seeking information on ill health absence in references, pre-interview
- Interview arrangements
- Terms and conditions of employment
- Staff development opportunities
- All other policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body

Direct discrimination: that is, less favourable treatment because of a protected characteristic, compared to someone whose circumstances excluding the characteristic are otherwise comparable. Such discrimination cannot be justified by the employer.

Indirect discrimination: may occur when an employer applies an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice (PCP) that puts workers sharing a protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage.

For indirect discrimination to take place, four requirements must be met:

- the employer applies (or would apply) the provision, criterion or practice equally to everyone within the relevant group including a particular worker.
- the provision, criterion or practice puts, or would put, people who share the worker's protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage when compared with people who do not have that characteristic.
- the provision, criterion or practice puts, or would put, the worker at that disadvantage.
- the employer cannot show that the provision, criterion or practice is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

The Governing Body will seek to avoid direct and indirect discrimination by:

- Not making assumptions about a person's disability.
- Following the social model of disability – that is, seeking to remove barriers that may prevent those with impairment(s) taking part in the organisation on an equal level with other employees.
- Seeking professional advice on whether impairment is covered by the Equality Act 2010 and carrying out workplace risk assessments where appropriate.

The Governing Body notes that it is not discrimination to treat a disabled person more favourably than a non-disabled person.

Reasonable Adjustments

In addition, The Governing Body, wherever possible and practicable, recognises the duty to assist a person with a disability including by making reasonable adjustments. Employees will be asked, on appointment, whether they have a disability. If a disability is not declared the employer is not able to assess whether any appropriate adjustments may be reasonably provided. These might include:

- Adjustments to premises
- Reallocation of a disabled person's duties
- Consideration of suitable alternative employment
- Consideration of more flexible working, including altering the person's working hours
- Allowing time off for rehabilitation, assessment or treatment
- Training
- Acquiring or modifying equipment
- Modifying instructions or reference manuals
- Modifying procedures in recruitment and selection for testing or assessment

The LA's guidance on Supporting Disabled Employees in the Personnel Handbook will inform the Governing Body's consideration of any reasonable adjustments that may be required.

As referenced in section 1.4 of the Equality and Diversity Statement above, support for disabled employees, and the wider duties in relation to people with a disability under the Equality Act, will be taken into account when applying other human resource management policies adopted by the school.

Race Equality

Race is defined in the Equality Act as including colour, nationality, caste and ethnic or national origins. The school recognises that people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds (BME) can face discrimination.

The school recognises its Public Sector Equality Duty to advance race equality as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The Governing Body will:

- Give full and fair consideration to all applicants, based solely on their ability to do the job and give equal opportunity for training, career development and promotion for all employees.
- Ensure that information provided by the school is accessible and, where necessary, targeted at BME or other identified groups.
- Ensure that the school considers, and where appropriate implements, recommendations from the LA, Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), minority community group organisations and trade unions on the implementation of this policy.

Religion or Belief

The Governing Body is opposed to all forms of religion or belief based discrimination, including non-belief. It recognises that decisions and practices relating to employment and vocational training should not be based on an individual's religious beliefs or lack of them.

The school's policy is to protect the right of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, and will work for the eradication of all forms of discrimination on these grounds through

training, awareness raising and implementation of anti-harassment procedures. To benefit from protection under the Act, a religion or belief must be genuinely held, have a clear structure and belief system, a level of cogency, seriousness and cohesion and importance, be worthy of respect in a democratic society, not be incompatible with human dignity and not conflict with the fundamental rights of others.

The Governing Body will:

- Respect an individual's right to follow and practice a particular religion, religious or similar philosophical belief and respect those individuals who do not do so.
- Encourage a culture within the school which allows individuals to be open about their religious beliefs or otherwise.
- Encourage tolerance of different religions and belief based viewpoints (except where a belief is not worthy of respect in a democratic society or incompatible with the rights of others e.g. fascism).

The Governing Body recognises that indirect discrimination can occur when a condition, rule, policy, or practice in the organisation, that applies to everyone, disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic. Indirect discrimination may be justified when the school has acted reasonably in implementing 'a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'.

With reference to indirect discrimination, in particular the school will consider the effect of any staff dress code or restrictions relating to the wearing of jewellery in the light of any religious significance or requirement for observance of a religion. The Governing Body will consult with staff on any proposed code of dress and wearing of jewellery.

Such codes will seek to promote the professionalism of staff, respect for their authority and regard for the school by students, colleagues, parents and the community.

They will reflect the need for smart and modest apparel, which is also appropriate for any specific curriculum areas taught.

Restrictions may also be justified on the grounds of the health and safety, of the wearer or others.

Consideration will also be given to any barrier posed to necessary communication with children and the exercise of the duty of care to pupils, in promoting their education and welfare.

Sex/Gender Equality

The Governing Body is opposed to all forms of sex/gender based discrimination and will respect the right to dignity of all employees.

It will continue to strive to achieve equality of opportunity, while attempting to recognise and address historical and gender-specific discrimination.

The Governing Body will:

- Recognise family and caring responsibilities through the continued development of family friendly and carer support policies and provisions.

- Recognise that career patterns are often disrupted because of caring responsibilities and provide appropriate training and career development opportunities.
- Challenge sexist attitudes and practices both within the school and external organisations with which the school may deal.
- Give full and fair consideration to applications for employment from individuals, based solely on their ability to do the job and give equal opportunity to training, career development and promotion for employees regardless of gender
- Develop specific initiatives, where required, to address gender imbalances within the school and to address gender inequalities or discrimination.
- Ensure that information, publicity and advertising over which the school has control or influence is non-sexist and uses positive images and language of people of all genders.

Gender Re-assignment

The Governing Body is opposed to all forms of sex based discrimination and will respect the right to dignity of all genders and those undergoing gender re-assignment.

Gender re-assignment is defined in the Act as applying to anyone who is undergoing, has undergone, or is proposing to undergo a process of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes.

The school's policy is to protect the rights of individuals, regardless of their gender and will work for the eradication of all forms of discrimination (direct & indirect discrimination, victimisation, discrimination based on perception and on association) on these grounds through training, awareness raising and implementation of anti-harassment procedures.

The Governing Body will:

- Respect an individual's right to define their sexual identity.
- Work towards enabling employees to feel safe in being open about their sexual identity.
- Give full and fair consideration to applications for employment from individuals, based solely on their ability to do the job and give equal opportunity to training, career development and promotion for employees regardless of gender.
- Respect the right to privacy in relation to information provided by a transsexual person. If someone has a Gender Recognition Certificate, it may be a criminal offence to disclose this without permission. It is recognised that it is for the individual to disclose information relating to their gender reassignment if, and when, they wish to do so.

Sexual Orientation

The Governing Body recognises its general duty to protect people at work and in vocational training from discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

The Governing Body is opposed to all forms of discrimination against lesbian women, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual men and women. It recognises that decisions and practices relating to employment should not be based on the assumption that everyone is, or should be, heterosexual.

The Governing Body will:

- Respect an individual's right to define their sexual identity.
- Protect the dignity of people of all sexual orientations at work.
- Work towards enabling employees to feel safe in being open about their sexual identity.
- Tackle homophobia including homophobic bullying.

It is recognised that there is a relationship between protection because of sexual orientation and protection of religious freedom, i.e., the right to manifest one's religion or belief. For individual teachers, having a view about something does not amount to discrimination, so it should not be unlawful to express personal views on sexual orientation provided it is done in the appropriate manner (e.g., in RE or PSHEE lesson). However, teachers at the school are expected to remember that they are very influential people and have due regard for their wider responsibilities. Conveying a belief in a way that was haranguing, harassing or targeted at a particular pupil/group of pupils would be likely to constitute unlawful discrimination.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

The Governing Body recognises that marriage and civil partnership is a protected characteristic under the Act. The school will not discriminate against people on this ground. It will support all kinds of families and treat parents fairly, irrespective of marital status or civil partnership status.

No individual teacher is under a duty to support, promote or endorse marriage of same sex couples, but teaching should be based on the facts and enable pupils to develop an understanding of how the law applies to different relationships. Teachers must have regard to statutory guidance on sex and relationships education and meet duties under equality and human rights law.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Pregnancy and maternity is a protected characteristic under the Act and the Governing Body recognises its duty to protect women from discrimination at work because of pregnancy or maternity leave.

The school incorporates the statutory provisions relating to employees' rights to Health and Safety protection, time off for antenatal care, maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave and unfair dismissal protection in other relevant policies.

Age Equality

Ageism is discrimination based on preconceived ideas of an individual's capabilities at certain stages in their lives and is often targeted at younger and older people. The school is opposed to discrimination on the grounds of age.

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure that age is not a barrier to recruitment, selection, promotion, training or personal development.
- Ensure that age will not be considered adversely in redundancy situations.
- Seek to eliminate age discrimination through education and training.
- Ensure that indirect discrimination does not occur as a result of a perception relating to an employee's age or arising from an association to another person in connection with their age (e.g., if an employee was not selected for a promotion

or a development opportunity because an assumption was made concerning their role in caring for an elderly parent).

Rehabilitation of Offenders

The Governing Body will give due consideration to individuals with prior convictions who apply for jobs in the school unless they are barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service. It is an offence to knowingly employ a person who is disqualified under the 2009 regulations in connection with the relevant childcare provision. They will apply the guidance from the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', Disqualification Under the Childcare Act 2006 and the relevant policies of the Local Authority ([DfE Statutory Guidance - Disqualification under the Childcare Act](#)) and school to risk assess such applicants' suitability for the post. Form sent to schools by DBS team when the check on an employee reveals a trace. The school will also take account of the Information Commissioner's Office guidance on employment practices (ico.org.uk). The school will not ask employees to make requests for their criminal records in connection with employment processes, as this would amount to a forced Subject Access Request, which is an offence under section 56 of the Data Protection Act. (LA's guidance on data protection referenced on page 6)

Harassment and Bullying

The Governing Body recognises that harassment, discrimination, victimisation or bullying of any nature is unacceptable. A culture will be promoted within the school where employees and pupils can bring a complaint without fear of ridicule or reprisal and be taken seriously. (See school's policy regarding bullying for pupils and harassment procedure for employees)

It is also recognised that harassment or victimisation may occur when an individual has or intends to make a complaint or give evidence about discrimination or harassment. The aim is to prevent harassment occurring and to enable individuals to confront unacceptable action or behaviour.

Employees have an obligation to promote an atmosphere free from harassment and to challenge instances of harassment.

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure that employees are aware of harassment procedures.
- Ensure that complaints are dealt with in a sensitive manner.
- Provide support for any individual within the school who is experiencing harassment, victimisation, or discrimination.
- Monitor complaints.

The LA's guidance 'Dealing with Complaints of Harassment' in the Personnel Handbook will inform the Governing Body's consideration of this aspect of Equal Opportunities.

Employees also need to have drawn to their attention the Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing).

Adopted by the governing board of Buxton Junior School in November 2024