



Ireby Church of England Primary School

Vision – ‘Created to do good’ – Ephesians 2:10

Single Equality Scheme (SES) including our:

- [SES Statement](#);
- [SES – Scheme Detail](#);
- [SES Information Report](#) (to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty);
- [Equality Impact Assessment Form](#); and
- [Equality Objectives/Action Plan](#).

Approved by: ¹

Michael John
Head Teacher:

Date: 29/09/2023

Philippa Irving
Chair of Governors:

Date: 29/09/2023

Next review date: ² 29/09/2024

¹ This policy requires approval from the Full Governing Body.

² Details of how the school complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) must be updated annually, and the school's Equality Objectives must be updated at least every 4 years. This Policy will therefore be reviewed/updated annually in order to ensure ongoing compliance.

It is a requirement for this policy to be published on the school website.

KEY ROLES

The following key roles were held as at the date of publication:

Head teacher	Michal John
Governor with specific responsibility for the Single Equality Scheme	Philippa Irving

REVIEW SHEET

Each entry in the table below summarises the changes made to this document since the last review.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	Jun 2012
2	Reformatted only	Jun 2017
3	Updated with information on what must be published on the school website and timescales for publication	Sept 2017
4	Reviewed – links checked	Oct 2019
5	No significant policy changes but some significant cuts to wording, increase in spacing and text size for readability, and updates in the language used to talk about disability (e.g. people with disabilities because they are people first), race (e.g. people of BAME origin because they are people first) sex, gender, gender reassignment, updated definitions and links to further resources.	May 2021
6	Updated information to ensure terminology is correct. Very minor changes.	Feb 2022
7	Personalised for Ireby School by Headteacher & Governors	29/09/2023

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INTRODUCTION

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy and procedures a child, young person, pupil or student is referred to as a 'child' or a 'pupil' and they are normally under 18 years of age.

Wherever the term 'parent' is used this includes any person with parental authority over the child concerned e.g. carers, legal guardians etc.

Wherever the term 'Head teacher' is used this also refers to any Manager with the equivalent responsibility for children.

The term 'school' refers to Ireby Church of England Primary School. The term 'school' also includes wrap around care, such as Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs.

'Protected Characteristics' are: [age](#) (staff only); [disability](#); [gender reassignment](#); [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only); [pregnancy and maternity](#); [race](#); [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief); [sex](#); or [sexual orientation](#).

Public Sector Equality Duties:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation (EUDHV);
- equality of opportunity (EO); and
- fostering good relations (FGR).

2. Overall document purpose and timescales for updating each component

The purpose of this document is to publish various mandatory Statements and Policy details for our school, in one place. The component parts (and details of when each are required to be updated) are shown in the table below:

SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME (SES) STATEMENT	We will update and re-publish our Statement as necessary .
PART ONE – SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME (SES)	We will update and re-publish (Part 1) as necessary .
PART TWO – SINGLE EQUITY INFORMATION REPORT (To demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty)	We will update and re-publish Part 2 annually to account for the September intake (or staffing changes) and how they affect diversity in school.
PART THREE – EQUALITY OBJECTIVES – ACTION PLAN	We will update and re-publish Part 3 no less than every 4 years . <i>(We will also review Part 3 in brief annually in light of our new Part 2 to ensure our longer-term goals remain relevant.)</i>

This document is published on our school website, and a printed copy is available on request from the school office. It can also be made available in other formats e.g. another language, or Braille, on request.

SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME (SES) STATEMENT

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires schools to consider how their policies, practices, and day-to-day activities impact staff and pupils (including prospective staff and pupils, and in some circumstances former staff and pupils) with regard to their 'protected characteristics':

- [age](#) (staff only);
- [disability](#);
- [gender reassignment](#);
- [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only);
- [pregnancy and maternity](#);
- [race](#);
- [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief);
- [sex](#); or
- [sexual orientation](#).

At Ireby Church of England Primary School we are committed to ensuring:

- **equality of education** and **equality of opportunity** for all pupils, staff, and parents receiving services from us – irrespective of:
 - any legally 'protected characteristic' they might have, or
 - their socio-economic background (e.g., pupils from low income families, Children Looked After, those with Child Protection plans, young carers, and those with English as an additional language, even though these are not legally protected characteristics).

We are also committed to showing "due regard" for the need to:

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation**, (EUDHV) including by association (treating a person less favourably because they have a black partner), or by perception (treating a person less favourably because 'it is thought they are gay' will be discrimination due to sexual orientation even if they are not gay);
- **Advance equality of opportunity** (EO) between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- **Foster good relations** (FGR) between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to our school feel proud of their identity and can participate fully in school life. To do this we look to remove barriers and if we can't, we look to achieve equity for all in everything school does from setting policy and implementing procedures to teaching practice, recruitment, and budget allocation which means sometimes we treat people differently because they have different needs.

We will work to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages;
- Take steps to meet different needs; and
- Encourage participation when it is disproportionately low.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored according to any relevant protected characteristic that we might reasonably be expected to know they have and their socio-economic background, and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusivity.

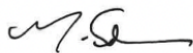
We will tackle discrimination by promoting equality, challenging bullying & stereotypes, and creating an environment which champions **respect for all**. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Our Single Equality Scheme (SES) demonstrates that we have:

- considered the needs of our staff, pupils, parents, governors, and other members of our wider school community;
- set out roles and responsibilities for equality; and
- drawn up our school equality aims.

We will publish information to demonstrate how we are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) annually ([SES: Part 2](#)) and one or more specific and measurable equality objectives every 4 years ([SES: Part 3](#)).

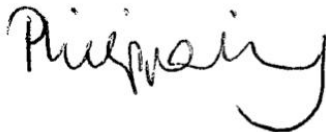
Signed:



(Head teacher)

Date: 29/09/2023

Signed:



(Chair of Governors)

Date: 29/09/2023

PART ONE – OUR SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME (SES)

1. Aims of our Single Equality Scheme (SES)

- To describe this school's commitment to equality throughout all policies and practice.
- To help us ensure that everyone who belongs to, or comes into contact with, our school community is valued and respected.
- To promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.
- To comply with statutory duties under equalities legislation in one document.

2. Purpose of our Single Equality Scheme

To comply with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 (see [Key Legislation Summary](#)), our Single Equality Scheme describes how we are trying to systematically set and implement good practice in equality and diversity as follows:

- Develop and review the SES and our objectives with appropriate timescales for the future;
- Eliminate discrimination;
- Eliminate harassment or victimisation related to any aspect of social identity or diversity;
- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote positive attitudes to all aspects of social identity and diversity;
- Encourage participation by people with disabilities and people representing different aspects of social identity in public life;
- Take steps to take account of difference even where that involves treating some people more favourably than others;
- Take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils, employees, or other members of the school community like pupils' parents or carers.

3. Planning to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity

Part 3 of our Single Equality Scheme is an '[EQUALITY OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN](#)' which identifies what we will be doing over a 4 year period to make our school more accessible to the whole community, irrespective of background or need. We prepare this plan with consideration and regard to our various key stakeholders including pupils, parents & carers, governors, staff, and others in the school community. The Action Plan helps us to deliver our Public Sector Equality Duties:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation (EUDHV);
- equality of opportunity (EO); and
- fostering good relations (FGR).

We also have an ACCESSIBILITY PLAN, (available on our School website or from the school office) which specifically focuses on:

1. Updating our ongoing compliance with the Equality Act;
2. Improving access to the curriculum;
3. Improving access to written information; and
4. Improving access to the physical environment.

We publish both of these things (i.e. the 'ACCESSIBILITY PLAN' and the '[EQUALITY OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN](#)') in order to ensure we are meeting our duties to promote positive outcomes in relation to disability, and actions to address other social identities.

Progress towards the Objectives in [Part 3](#), and the Accessibility Plan, is reported on periodically to the Governing Body and is reviewed annually. [Part 2](#) of our Single Equality Scheme is an annually updated Information Report about diversity in our school and how we are doing against our Equality Objectives/Action Plan.

We take steps to ensure our Single Equality Information Report ([Part 2](#)) and our Objectives/Action Plan ([Part 3](#)) are understood and implemented by all staff and are published on the school website.

These will also be made available in different formats/languages on request to the school office.

4. Roles and responsibilities for implementing the Single Equality Scheme

4.1 The governing body

The governing body will:

- ensure our school complies with all relevant equalities legislation;
- undertake relevant and up-to-date training in our equalities duties;
- designate a governor with specific responsibility for the Single Equality Scheme;
- draw up, publish and implement our school's equality objectives;
- establish our SES action plan is part of our School Development Plan;
- support the Head teacher in implementing any actions necessary;
- ensure people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school on grounds of a protected characteristics: [age](#) (staff only); [disability](#); [gender reassignment](#); [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only); [pregnancy and maternity](#); [race](#); [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief); [sex](#); or [sexual orientation](#)
- take all reasonable steps to ensure our school environment is accessible to people with disabilities, and strive to make school communications as inclusive as possible for parents and pupils;
- welcome all applications to join our school, whatever a child's socio-economic background and/or protected characteristics;
- ensure that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school because of protected characteristics;
- inform and have regard for parents and the wider school community in relation to the Single Equality Scheme;
- evaluate and review the information supporting the Single Equality Scheme annually; and
- evaluate the objectives and action plan at least every 4 years.

4.2 The Head teacher

The Head teacher will take steps to ensure:

- staff and parents are informed about the Single Equality Scheme;
- staff understand the broad legal definition of disability;
- the Single Equality Scheme is implemented effectively;
- they manage any day to day issues arising from the Single Equality Scheme whether for pupils, school, or local community;
- staff have access to training which helps implement the Scheme;

- they monitor the Single Equality Scheme, Objectives and Action Plan and report to the Governing Body at least annually, on their effectiveness;
- teachers are kept up to date with any developments which affect the Single Equality Scheme or Action Plan;
- appropriate support and monitoring is in place for all pupils, and specific and targeted pupils, under the Single Equality Scheme, (with assistance from relevant agencies);
- appointments panels give due regard to this plan, so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities;
- the principles of equal opportunity are promoted when developing the curriculum, respect for other people, and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life;
- all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, are appropriately recorded and treated with due seriousness and in line with the School Behaviour Policy and procedures;
- complaints of discrimination, harassment, or victimisation are dealt with speedily; and in accordance with the school's Policies and procedures; and complainants are notified of actions taken; and
- appropriate action is taken in the event of equality expectations not being met.

4.3 All staff: teaching, non-teaching and other adults involved with our school

All staff, both paid and unpaid are required to:

- understand and accept that equality is a whole school issue and support our Single Equality Scheme;
- be aware of the Single Equality Scheme and Objectives and how they relate to them and their work;
- keep themselves up to date with relevant legislation and attend any training/information events;
- ask for support if they have questions or need training;
- ensure all pupils are treated fairly, equally (or equitably e.g. giving more or less support than to others to achieve the same aims), and with respect;
- strive to include materials that provide positive images, especially based on race, sex, and disability and that challenge stereotypical images;
- ensure that all pupils with a protected characteristic are included in all activities and have full access to the curriculum;
- promote equality and diversity through teaching and our relationships with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community;
- understand how to deal with incidents of concern, and how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping; and
- know our procedures for reporting incidents of racism, harassment or other forms of discrimination.

4.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected and will be supported to:

- understand how the Single Equality Scheme relates to them (in an age or ability appropriate way);
- to act in accordance with any relevant part of the Single Equality Scheme;
- experience a curriculum and environment which is respectful of diversity and difference and prepares them well for life in a diverse society;
- understand the importance of reporting discriminatory bullying and racially motivated incidents; and
- play a part in promoting understanding and support for pupils who are experiencing discrimination.

5. Statements of our school's equality aims

5.1 Our equality aims regarding staffing and employment

To ensure no employee or other adult working at, or potential employee applying for jobs at our school is discriminated against on grounds of a protected characteristic we will:

- ensure staff are appropriately trained in their equality duties and the needs of protected groups in our school community, and have mechanisms in place to identify areas for development;
- make necessary reasonable adjustments to prevent a person with disabilities from being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with people who are not disabled;
- monitor recruitment and retention;
- invest in relevant continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- make efforts to ensure the diversity of our workforce reflects our local community and wider society;
- not enquire about the health of an applicant or require them to complete a generic health questionnaire as part of the recruitment process until a job offer has been made unless the questions are necessary to find out if an applicant needs reasonable adjustments to access the recruitment process fairly (such as for an assessment or interview), or when the question relates to a person's ability to carry out a function that is intrinsic (or absolutely fundamental) to that job;
- ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and take seriously and act on incidents of harassment, discrimination, or victimisation recognising that our staff may be either victims or perpetrators.

5.2 Our equality aims regarding pupils' attainment and progress

This school recognises and values all forms of achievement, has high expectations of all pupils while challenging them to reach their full potential. We will particularly monitor and analyse pupil performance by race/ethnicity, sex, special educational needs or disability (SEND), and social background. Disparities we identify will be addressed through targeted curriculum planning, teaching, and support.

5.3 Our equality aims regarding curriculum development and delivery

To provide all pupils with the opportunity to achieve their full potential, we will:

- use contextual data to improve the ways we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- monitor achievement data by race/ethnicity, sex, special educational needs or disability (SEND), and any other relevant protected characteristic as well as socio-economic background in some cases, and act to close any gaps;
- encourage pupils to become independent and assist them in taking responsibility for the management of their own learning and behaviour;
- use self-assessment as a teaching and learning strategy, and provide all pupils with opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning through regular reflection and feedback on their progress;
- take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and set appropriately challenging targets;
- ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- use materials that reflect the diversity of our school population and local community in terms of race, sex, sexual orientation, and disability, without stereotyping;
- promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist or discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of others;

- promote activities that celebrate our common experience and that recognise diversity and foster understanding and respect for the culture, religion, and beliefs of all our pupils and their families;
- try to involve all parents and carers in supporting their child's education and personal development;
- encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and their impact on learning.

5.4 Our equality aims regarding pupil welfare and pastoral care

To promote the health, safety and welfare of all our pupils and staff, and provide a caring and supportive pastoral system that takes account of their needs, we will:

- develop and continually review our Health and Safety, and Wellbeing Policies;
- ensure details of this Single Equality Scheme are shared with all teaching, and non-teaching staff;
- expect all staff and volunteers working in our school to foster a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust amongst all boys and girls from all ethnic groups and range of abilities;
- challenge stereotypes and foster pupils' critical awareness and concepts of fairness, enabling them to detect bias and challenge inequality;
- take account of religious, cultural and ethnic differences, special educational needs (SEN), disability and the experiences and needs of all pupils, throughout our pastoral support;
- provide appropriate support for pupils learning English as an additional language (EAL) and encourage pupils to use their home and community languages to enhance their learning;
- give appropriate support (using external agencies if required) to victims of harassment and bullying and deal with perpetrators in line with our School Behaviour Policy providing them with relevant support to consider and modify their behaviour;
- ensure guidance and support for pupils or staff is delivered in a way that does not discriminate against pupils with unseen (e.g. cognitive, visual, hearing, mobility/bodily function, severe allergic reactions, conditions prone to seizure) impairments;
- ensure any pupil who is pregnant or has had a baby are supported and have access to education;
- provide appropriate and discreet facilities for pupils who require personal or intimate care to protect their dignity and foster respect for their individual needs;
- empower staff to raise any concerns with the Head teacher (or a colleague, or governor) about their health, safety and welfare, by having clear procedures and promoting wellbeing strategies among staff.

5.5 Our equality aims regarding the quality of provision – curriculum and other activities

To provide an appropriate curriculum for pupils of all backgrounds we will:

- monitor and evaluate its effectiveness through target setting and attainment analysis;
- ensure that all pupils participate in the mainstream curriculum of the school;
- develop and continuously monitor a curriculum which builds on pupils' starting points and is differentiated appropriately to ensure the inclusion of:
 - boys and girls
 - pupils learning English as an additional language
 - pupils from minority ethnic groups, including Gypsies and Travellers
 - pupils who are gifted and talented
 - pupils who are pregnant or who have recently given birth

- pupils who are undergoing gender reassignment
 - pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
 - pupils with disabilities
 - pupils who are looked after by the Local Authority
 - pupils who are at a risk of disaffection and exclusion
 - lesbian, gay or questioning young people
 - pupils who are the subject of a child protection plan
- ensure that each area of the curriculum is planned to include the principles of equality and to promote positive attitudes to diversity. All subjects contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils;
 - deliver a curriculum which reflects and values diversity and that encourages pupils to explore bias and to challenge prejudice and stereotypes;
 - ensure extra-curricular activities and special events e.g. school performances, cater for the interests and capabilities of all pupils and take account of parental preferences about religion and culture;
 - ensure educational visits and excursions take account of the capabilities of all pupils including both physical and cognitive disabilities and cultural differences;
 - make use of web-based technologies (websites and the Virtual Learning Environment) to support a high-quality learning and teaching experience to all our pupils irrespective of disability.

5.6 Our equality aims regarding behaviour and attendance

We expect high standards of behaviour from all pupils appropriate to their age or stage of development, all staff and from others who work with or connected to school. For more information, please see our 'Behaviour Policy and procedures' (available from the school website, or on request from the school office) and our 'Code of conduct for school staff and other adults who work with children' (available on request from the school office).

Through our school ethos and curriculum, we want our pupils to understand better diversity in society. We want to provide opportunities for them to explore the subtleties and complexities to prevent and respond to incidents and situations. We will address the experience, understanding and needs of the victim, the perpetrator, bystanders and the wider school community through our actions and responses.

To ensure that the School Behaviour Policy and associated policies are equitable, we:

- have procedures for disciplining pupils and managing behaviour that are fair and applied equally to all and we expect all staff to operate consistent systems of rewards and sanctions;
- recognise that cultural background and disability may affect behaviour and we take this into account when dealing with incidents of unacceptable behaviour;
- recognise that hate incidents or prejudice-based bullying behaviour is driven by negative assumptions, stereotypes or misinformation (directed against an individual or group, based on real or perceived difference, and linked to racism, homophobia, ableism, sexism etc.) and we will act to prevent, challenge and eliminate such behaviour;
- have clear anti-bullying procedures in place to record, monitor and deal promptly, firmly and consistently with all incidents including cyberbullying, sexting and other forms of harassment and victimisation, especially related to racism, ableism, sexism and homophobia;
- ensure that all staff are trained to deal effectively with bullying of all types, racist incidents, racial harassment and prejudice and are offered support in handling such matters;
- encourage staff to explore their own views and attitudes to difference and to monitor their practice in relation to this Single Equality Scheme, especially in leading by example and having high expectations of all pupils;

- take steps to ensure that pupils, staff and parents are aware of our policies and procedures for dealing with harassment, and know that language or behaviour, which is extremist, racist, sexist, homophobic or potentially damaging to any equality group, is always unacceptable;
- provide information and advice on attendance, behaviour, and exclusion to parents and carers in accessible formats such as relevant community languages and large print;
- have strategies in place to reintegrate long-term non-attenders and excluded pupils, which address the needs of all pupils;
- ensure that families are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to pupil attendance and absence and that cases are always followed up in a way that takes account of cultural issues or matters relating to disability;
- make provision for leave of absence for religious observance for staff as well as pupils;
- monitor attendance by race or ethnicity, sex, disability, special educational needs or disability, and social background, and address disparities we identify between different groups of pupils;
- fully support children with long-term medical needs who may have an erratic attendance because they are in and out of hospital or not well enough to attend school on a regular basis;
- expect full-time attendance of Traveller and Gypsy pupils whilst they are on the school roll.

5.7 Our equality aims regarding partnership with pupils, parents and the wider community

We have established good links with our local and wider community, and we engage in visits and we welcome them into our school. From them, we learn about equality issues outside school and can establish mechanisms for addressing them in school.

To help us understand diversity in school and sensitively promote participation in our Single Equality Scheme we will:

- involve all stakeholders including pupils, staff, parents and other users of the school in meeting our equality duties by providing information and asking for opinions and support;
- ensure that school premises, grounds and facilities are equally available and accessible for use by all groups within the community
- take into account the preferred means of communication for those with whom we are consulting e.g. translated materials or interpretation facilities for people with disabilities or those for whom English is an additional language or who are newly arrived in this country;
- include representation from the widest range of relevant groups that we can reasonably achieve;
- monitor parental involvement and have strategies to raise the participation of under-represented groups of parents and sections of the community.
- Provide clearly written progress reports to parents that are free from jargon to encourage participation in their child's education (incl. in other formats/languages as above). Parents with a disability or with learning difficulties will be able to access school's information;
- fully involve parents in plans for their child with special educational needs or disabilities and ensure they understand the purpose of any intervention or action plan and are told about the parent partnership service when SEND is identified;
- ensure that any informal events we hold are designed to include the whole community, and at times may target minority or marginalised groups;
- work in partnership with parents and the community to address specific incidents and to develop positive attitudes to difference.

5.8 Our equality aims regarding leadership and management

Our employment practices reflect equality and diversity. We will:

- adhere to recruitment and selection procedures which are fair, equitable and in line with statutory duties of the LA;
- take steps to encourage people from under-represented groups to apply for positions at all levels in the school and ensure recruitment and selection processes are monitored;
- ensure that everyone associated with the school is informed of the contents of this Single Equality Scheme and that all staff and visitors must support the ethos of the school, promoting equality and challenging bias and stereotyping wherever they find it;
- ensure that staff training continually highlights equality issues, including in the induction programme for new staff or volunteers;
- recognise and value the skills of all staff, including non-teaching and part-time staff and ensure all staff are given status and support and encouraged to share their knowledge.
- ensure that staff handbooks and regular professional development activities are available for all staff members to support their practice in relation to this Single Equality Scheme;
- ensure that resources and displays in our school reflect the experience and backgrounds of pupils, promote diversity and challenge stereotypes. They are reviewed regularly to ensure that they reflect the inclusive ethos of the school e.g. images of people from different equality groups, their prominence in displays at eye level etc.

5.9 Our equality aims regarding linguistic diversity

We recognise and celebrate the linguistic diversity in British society. We look for opportunities to enrich the curricular experience of all our pupils by:

- highlighting how English has borrowed from other languages;
- raising awareness of the similarities and differences between English and other languages;
- reflecting the multilingual nature of wider society in our resources and displays;
- acknowledging the differences in syntax with non-spoken forms of English e.g. British Sign Language.

5.10 Our equality aims regarding sex and gender reassignment equality

We are committed to combating sex discrimination and sexism and promoting the equality of women and men, and boys and girls.

We are also committed to ensuring the rights under the Equality Act of people undergoing gender reassignment (defined as applying to anyone who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process or part-process, for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes). This means that in order to be protected under the Act, pupils or staff will not necessarily have to be undertaking a medical procedure to change their sex but must be taking steps to live in the opposite gender or proposing to do so. So far, the law has not acknowledged non- binary or genderless individuals, but we want to act appropriately to safeguard and include all members of our communities.

We will give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation on the grounds of sex or gender reassignment, including domestic violence, sexual violence, bullying, and exploitation;
- promote equality of opportunity between women and men in all our functions;
- recognise that society has stereotypes for both women and men, and both women and men can lose opportunities because of these stereotypes;
- be aware that staff with caring and domestic responsibilities may need to work part-time or flexible working hours;

- work in partnership with other agencies to eliminate sexual harassment, domestic violence and other hate crimes.

5.11 Our equality aims regarding admissions and exclusions

Admissions

The Local Authority (LA) is the Admissions Authority for our school. The LA therefore decides the admissions policy; publishes information about applying for a school place; and makes decisions about the allocation of places. Further details are set out in the schools 'Admission Arrangements' document which can be found on the school website, or be obtained on request from the school office.

Exclusions

Exclusions will always be based on our 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusions Policy and procedures', (a copy of which can be obtained on request from the school office), and we will:

- Closely monitor exclusions by sex, race or ethnicity, special educational need or disability, and background to avoid potential adverse impacts and ensure any discrepancies are identified.
- Take action to address any disparities we find between different groups of pupils;
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the exclusion of a pupil for a reason related to their disability.

PART TWO – OUR SINGLE EQUALITY INFORMATION REPORT (Required to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty)

Part 2 of this Policy (information to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality duty) will be reviewed, updated and published annually.

1. Our school profile

Ireby School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School with 34 pupils currently enrolled (16 boys/18 girls). 3 children have pupil premium, SEN numbers are low, and there are a small number of ethnic minority pupils. The number of enrolled pupils has remained stable for around 4 years.

The school has a strong Christian ethos which develops the whole child.

Most children join the school from our own nursery, and also from a local private nursery. As a result, attainment and maturity varies. Children start at Ireby from age 3, for up to 30 hours per week.

Our catchment area takes in the villages of Ireby, Uldale, Torpenhow, Bothel, Bolton & other surrounding villages. The immediate area is rural, with few amenities available locally.

Our breakfast club operates from 8.00am and our after-school club operates to 5.30pm each evening. Over an average week, over 30% of pupils use both clubs.

We have a full teaching staff complement.

The Local Authority (LA) handles admissions to the school. When we are made aware of pupils who are joining the school with special educational needs or disabilities, we arrange to meet the pupil and parents or carers and involve professionals from the LA and Health Authority to ensure any adjustments required to our buildings or curriculum are made in readiness for them starting school. The school has fully ramped access and is level throughout the building enabling access to wheelchair users. Our reception area is accessible to people with disabilities. We have one disabled toilet.

A small proportion of pupils speak a 2nd language.

Information for parents and others is provided in verbal and written form and we offer it in alternative formats on request e.g. another language, Braille etc.

Recruitment procedures are based on those provided by our LA with all advertising being processed through the Council HR and Advertising Team.

2. Disability equality duties

Our commitment to achieving equality of opportunity for pupils with disabilities, their families, school staff, and other school users has a number of objectives:

We will promote equality for people with disabilities by:

- removing barriers to the accessibility of education, employment, services, information and buildings;
- encouraging good practice by our partners by giving relevant advice or instructions;
- ensuring we take their needs into account when procuring goods and services from our providers;

- promoting positive images of people with disabilities;
- challenging patronising or discriminating attitudes; and
- making the environment as safe as possible for and challenging antisocial or bullying behaviour against, or harassment of pupils, staff or other school users with disabilities.

We welcome the requirements of the Disability Equality duty and this section sets out our commitment to meeting the duty. Our Single Equality Scheme shows how we promote disability equality across all areas of the school, to disabled pupils, staff, parents, carers and other school users.

We have a separate School Accessibility Plan. See also the section below titled: [Accessibility Planning](#).

3. Racial equality duties and community cohesion

We recognise that people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin experience discrimination based on colour, race, nationality, religion, and ethnic origin. Racial harassment and violence are the most serious consequences of racism, damaging people emotionally and physically and limiting life choices and opportunities.

To ensure this school takes all necessary steps to prevent and tackle racial harassment and to help people of BAME origin live free from harassment, feel safe and enjoy and achieve throughout their education or working life at our school, we will take steps to:

- keep accurate records of all groups of faith or ethnicity, their backgrounds and needs and how we respond to them;
- encourage dialogue between different racial groups on the suitability of our educational provision;
- prevent racial discrimination, and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between members of different racial, cultural and religious groups;
- encourage pupils and their families of all ethnic groups to participate fully in all aspects of school life;
- use our support for the voluntary and community sector to promote good race relations;
- counter myths and misinformation that may undermine good community relations; and
- ensure our staff and other adults working in our school, pupils and their families, as well as our partners and the wider community fully understand the principles of good race relations.

4. Sex and gender reassignment equality duties

We are committed to combating sex discrimination and sexism and promoting the equality of women and men, and boys and girls.

We are also committed to ensuring the rights under the Equality Act of people undergoing gender reassignment (defined as applying to anyone who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process or part-process, for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes). This means that in order to be protected under the Act, pupils or staff will not necessarily have to be undertaking a medical procedure to change their sex but must be taking steps to live in the opposite gender or proposing to do so. So far, the law has not acknowledged non- binary or genderless individuals, but we want to act appropriately to safeguard and include all members of our communities.

We will give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation on the grounds of sex or gender reassignment, including domestic violence, sexual violence, bullying, and exploitation; and
- promote equality of opportunity between women and men in all our functions.

5. Religion and belief equality duties

This school recognises that people can face discrimination because of attitudes in society towards the religion, faith, or belief they hold or faith community they belong to. Faith-based hate crime has a character that is distinct from race-based hate crime. We also recognise that a person's religious (or similar) beliefs may mean that they have different needs, demands and expectations, which require flexibility. We understand this means we must assess the impact that our policies, functions and procedures have on promoting equality for people based on their religion, belief or non-belief.

6. Sexual orientation equality duties

This school is committed to combating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation faced by people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ or LGBT+) and we aim to ensure equality of opportunity in education, services, and employment.

We will respect the rights of individuals to be open about their sexual orientation, tackle homophobia, challenge stereotyping and improve knowledge about LGBTQ communities, both inside the community and across wider society.

We are committed to taking a proactive approach to preventing all forms of homophobia in the school community and will assess the impact of our policies, functions and procedures on promoting sexual orientation equality as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process.

7. Pregnancy and maternity equality duties

This school is committed to ensuring that staff who are pregnant or have recently given birth are protected from both direct and indirect discriminatory practices, disadvantage and unfavourable treatment. For more information please see the 'Maternity, Adoption, Paternity, Parental and Shared Parental Leave Procedure' published by our Local Authority – a copy of this document can be obtained on request from the school office.

As a Primary School we acknowledge that a pupil pregnancy can happen, and in any such an event a plan will be made to ensure that any such pupil is protected from discrimination as entitled if they:

- are or have been pregnant;
- have given birth and unfavourable treatment occurred within 26 weeks of and including the day of the birth;
- are breastfeeding and unfavourable treatment occurs within 26 weeks of the birth as above; or
- experienced a still birth, as long as the pregnancy reached 24 weeks.

To ensure pupils who are pregnant or have recently given birth or have experienced a still birth are protected from discriminatory practices, this school will not exclude them purely on the grounds of pregnancy and will provide up to 18 calendar weeks of authorised absence immediately before and after the birth to help reintegrated the pupil into education as quickly as possible.

8. Accessibility planning

Accessibility planning is a statutory duty. Our school has chosen to publish our Accessibility Plan as a standalone document, rather than within this document. Our Accessibility Plan sets out our plan for:

- a) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum;

- b) improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school; and
- c) improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

Our Accessibility Plan is published on the school website, and a paper copy can also be obtained, on request, from the school office.

9. Complaints

If a member of the public feels that they have suffered discrimination, harassment, or victimisation from our school because of their protected characteristic i.e. [age](#) (staff only); [disability](#); [gender reassignment](#); [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only); [pregnancy and maternity](#); [race](#); [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief); [sex](#); or [sexual orientation](#), they should report it using our normal School's Complaints Procedure. For more information please see our 'Concerns and Complaints Policy and Procedures' – this is published on the school website, and a paper copy can also be obtained, on request, from the school office.

Complaints by staff will be dealt with under the Grievance Procedure, as appropriate. For more information please see the 'Grievance Procedure' published by the Local Authority – a copy of this document can be obtained on request from the school office.

We take all complaints seriously and will take appropriate action to eliminate discriminatory behaviour.

We will monitor complaints to help establish whether we are meeting our equality duties and report regularly to the Governing Body about the nature of complaints made and action taken.

PART THREE – OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES/ACTION PLAN: 2023-2027

Our School Equality Objectives/Action Plan (Part 3) will be prepared and published at least every 4 years.

'Public Sector Equality Duties' are:

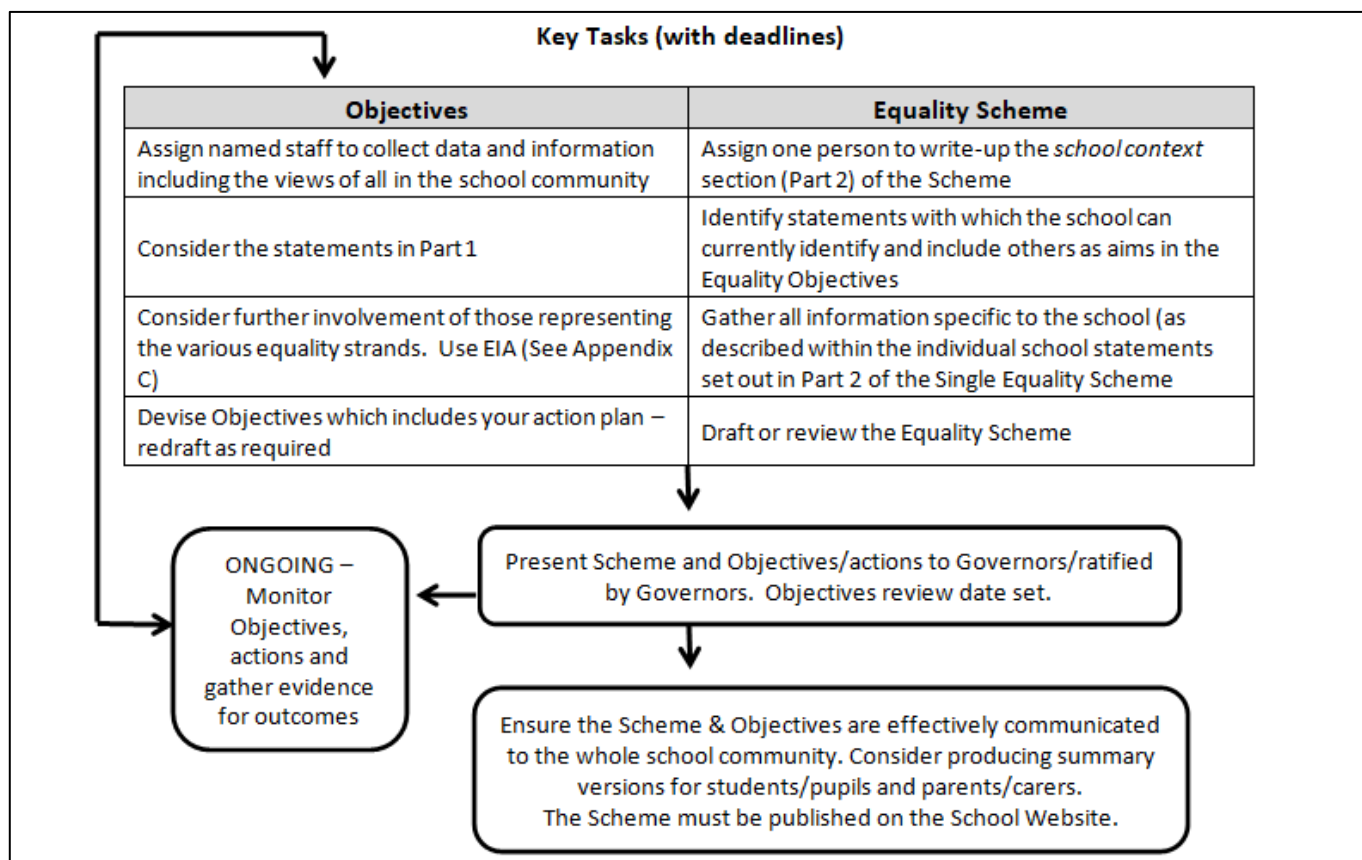
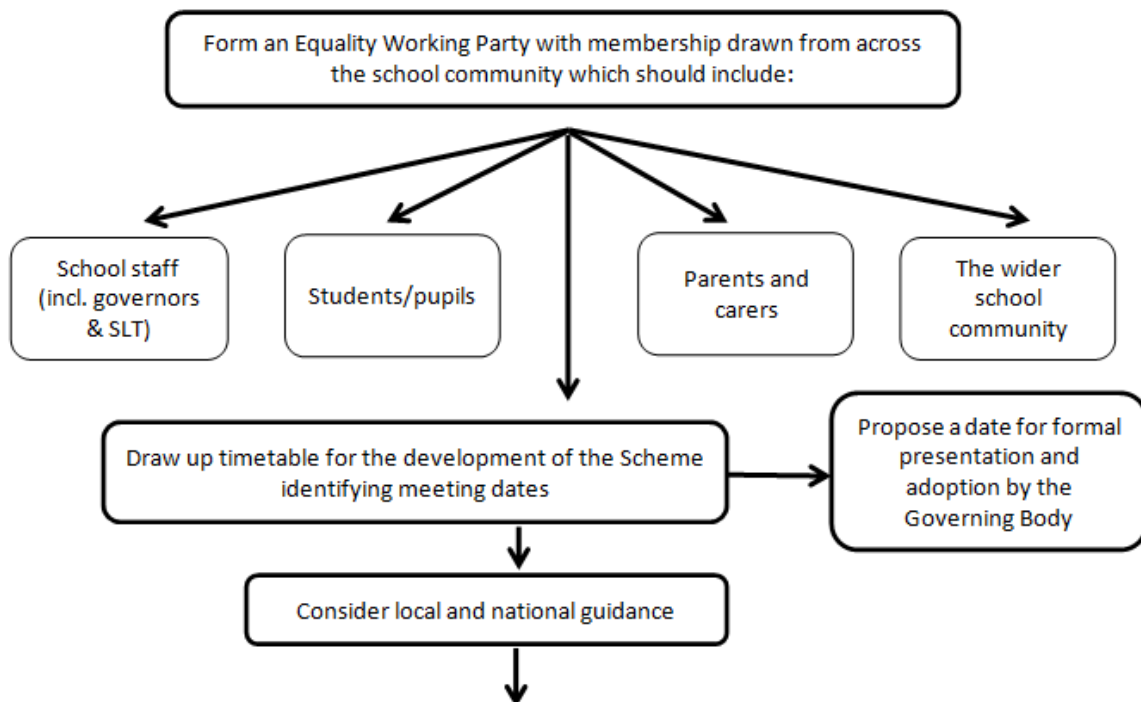
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation (EUDHV);
- equality of opportunity (EO);
- fostering good relations (FGR)

Below are our school's aims/objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation; • develop equality of opportunity; and • foster good relations. 	Who is responsible for the achievement of this aim/objective?	Dates from and to:
Increase pupil, staff & governor awareness of legal & human rights and the responsibilities that underpin society	Head teacher, all staff, & Chair of Governors	September 23-August 24
All staff and governors to receive CPD on equality in the context of their role	Head teacher & Chair of Governors	September 23-August 24
Ensure that displays and other images in classrooms & other areas within the school reflect equality	Head teacher & staff	September 23-August 24
Ensure the curriculum promotes equality	Head teacher & staff	September 23-August 24

Date Action Agreed:	29/09/2023	Date Agreed for Review:	29/09/2024
Completed by:	MICHAEL JOHN – HEAD TEACHER AND PHILIPPA IRVING – LEAD GOVERNOR FOR EQUALITY		

APPENDIX A – PROCESS CHART

The development & review of a Single Equality Scheme, objectives and resulting actions.



APPENDIX B – KEY LEGISLATION SUMMARY

Equality Act 2010

On 1 October 2010, the Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Discrimination Act and Sex Discrimination Act to consolidate it.

The Act protects staff, pupils and others from discrimination and harassment based on ‘protected characteristics’: [age](#) (staff only); [disability](#); [gender reassignment](#); [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only); [pregnancy and maternity](#); [race](#); [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief); [sex](#); or [sexual orientation](#).

This relates to:

- Prospective pupils and staff
- Pupils and staff at the school
- In some limited circumstances, former pupils and former staff

Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED)

Public sector equality duties are legal requirements on public bodies to have ‘due regard’ when they are exercising their public functions for to the need to:

- Eliminate conduct that is prohibited by the Act,
- 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 characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 made this a **single** equality duty on public bodies effective from April 2011. The purpose is not to be process driven and bureaucratic but rather an outcome-based method of ensuring that schools are best meeting the needs of all their pupils.

New protection in schools

The Act extended protection against discrimination to pupils who are pregnant or have recently given birth, or who are undergoing gender reassignment.

Health related questions for job applicants

It is now unlawful for employers to ask health-related questions of applicants before a job offer, unless the questions are specifically related to fair access to the recruitment process or an intrinsic function of the work (or for very limited other reasons like equality monitoring).

This means schools can no longer require job applicants to routinely complete a generic health questionnaire as part of the application procedure.

Current DfE [Staffing and Employment Advice for Schools](#) (p 21 s5.11-5.12) clearly states that a school must establish the fitness and ability to teach or carry out “relevant activities” of “teachers and other school staff” as required by the Health Standards (England) Regulations 2003) but makes no reference to Equality Act compliance.

Schools may decide to ask necessary health questions after a job offer and should ensure they are targeted, necessary and relevant to the job applied for. Schools should review existing practices to ensure they are complying with both the Health Standards Regulations 2003 and Section 60 of the Equality Act 2010.

Positive action

New Positive Action provisions will allow schools to target measures that are designed to alleviate disadvantages experienced by, or to meet the needs of, pupils with protected characteristics. Such measures will need to be a proportionate way of achieving the relevant aim. Previously a school providing – for example – special catch-up classes for Roma children or a project to engage specifically with alienated

Asian boys might have been discriminating unlawfully by excluding children who didn't belong to those groups.

Victimisation

It is now unlawful to victimise a child for anything done in relation to the Act by their parent or sibling.

Auxiliary aids

The Act extends the reasonable adjustment duty to require schools to provide auxiliary aids and services to pupils with disabilities.

Publication of the Single Equality Scheme

Details of a school's Single Equality Scheme and the first objectives must be published by 6 April 2012 and annually.

APPENDIX C – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EqIAs)

1. Guidance

1.1 What is an equality impact assessment (EqIA)?

To enable children or people within your school community to be treated fairly and equitably sometimes you must treat them differently. To identify how best to do this you have to think ahead and predict how to best serve the needs of the different groups within your school community. This is what equality impact assessment is all about.

Undertaking EqIAs is like undertaking health and safety risk assessments. It involves predicting and assessing what the implications of a policy or practice will be on a wide range of children or people with different and varied needs within your school community and trying to ensure they are not disadvantaged by it.

Your school community covers any person who is likely to use your school. This means pupils, parents, staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to your school. It also covers anticipating the needs of possible future members of your school community.

1.2 What is meant by ‘impact’?

Two possible impacts are considered as part of the process:

A negative or adverse impact

This is an impact which could disadvantage one or more groups within your school community. The disadvantage which is highlighted may be greater on one group than it is on another group.

For example:

- An open evening for pupils and parents and carers which is held in rooms that are only accessible by stairs will prohibit anyone with a mobility issue from attending the meeting.

In some cases, the disadvantage may be unavoidable – such as the reorganisation of a service to save money.

EqIAs provide the opportunity to explore the disadvantage on different groups, question if the disadvantage is fair considering the circumstances and either find solutions or alternatives, or justify the decision in an open, transparent and informative way.

A positive impact

This is an impact that could be advantageous for one or more groups. This positive impact may be greater for one group than it is on another group.

For example:

- A targeted training programme aimed at developing women to be able to apply for leadership positions would have a positive impact on women but would not, however, necessarily disadvantage men.
- An intervention programme aimed at raising the attainment level of underachieving boys in English would have a positive impact on boys, but it would not necessarily disadvantage girls.

Identifying positive impact is a good way of promoting equality and to share good practice for example, between departments or year groups and schools.

1.3 Why should we undertake equality impact assessments?

Undertaking EqIAs is a legal requirement for schools under current race, disability, and sex and gender legislation.

The purpose of the legislation is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector bodies, including schools, by anticipating the needs of service users and removing potentially anti-discriminatory practices. In the case of schools, service users would include pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors – anybody within your school community.

This means taking account of the needs of your school community in the development and review of any school policies and practices which are likely to affect them.

Undertaking EqlAs should not be a tick-box exercise. They should be considered a useful tool for mainstreaming equality into all our work. Services will improve through making improvements in the way policies are formulated and services delivered. This will enable barriers to be tackled and the needs of a diverse school population to be met. Your school community will also be aware that you are considering their needs at the planning stages.

1.4 What should be equality impact assessed?

You need to assess school policies or practices which are likely to affect children or people within your school community.

Written policies may be easy to identify but EqlAs also apply to practices and customary ways of doing things, even if they are not written down (e.g. arrangements for parent consultation events, arrangements for pupil extra-curricular activities).

In accordance with legislative requirements, an EqlA must be carried out on all policies and practices whether they are existing, being changed or are being proposed.

It is also important to remember that this includes proposals to changes in organisation structures, budget proposals and capital projects.

For example:

Impact on workforce of organisational change

All staff should be treated fairly and equitably through any proposed change to the workforce. You may need to consider whether any groups of staff will be adversely affected by the proposed change. It is also important to be aware of the outcome of any change on the workforce profile. You may need to address any identified under-representation in the workforce profile as part of any future recruitment activity.

Ensure the EqlA process includes the recruitment, selection and appointment procedures for staff.

Impact on service provision

If there is likely to be an impact on the way a service is provided because of any organisational change, you then need to ensure your EqlA considers the proposed changes in relation to how your school community will be affected and whether any negative impact can be justified.

1.5 What equality strands/groups should be covered by EqlAs?

Some groups may experience disadvantage, whether intentional or not because of characteristics specific to that group. These characteristics are known as equality strands. It is common practice to identify the characteristics into nine groups:

- [age](#) (staff only);
- [disability](#);
- [gender reassignment](#);
- [marriage and civil partnership](#) (staff only);
- [pregnancy and maternity](#);
- [race](#);
- [religion or belief](#) (including lack of belief);
- [sex](#); or
- [sexual orientation](#).

1.6 Who is responsible for carrying out equality impact assessments?

The person(s) who holds responsibility for the policy is ultimately responsible for ensuring an EqIA is undertaken.

The EqIA may be done in conjunction with or by a person who knows that area of work.

It may be helpful to have a team of people who can help with the process. Try to get a mix of staff at different levels to get different perspectives. Ensure that they have enough knowledge of the area being assessed to make valid judgements.

To ensure ownership at the most senior level all EqIAs should be signed off by the Head teacher and a member of the governing body.

1.7 When should Policies/Procedures be equality impact assessed?

All existing policies and practices should be reviewed on a rolling programme. It can be done in conjunction with the cycle of your own Single Equality Scheme.

By undertaking a policy mapping exercise, you can prioritise which policies and practices have a higher priority for EqIAs based on their likely proportionate impact.

To make sure that decision makers are provided full and clear information about policy or service implications, all new or proposed policies or practices should have an EqIA before they are implemented.

1.8 What happens as a result of an EqIA?

If any potential adverse impact is identified, then policies and practices may have to be amended as a result. If any adverse impact could amount to unlawful discrimination the policy or practice must be changed unless there is an objective, lawful reason to justify this.

The results of EqIAs can be used to set equality objectives leading to improvement in services and practices.

These should be placed within your equality action plan(s), for example ensuring relevant school policies can be made available in alternative formats, as required.

1.9 Do I have to do a separate EqIA for every similar policy?

No – in fact it makes sense to review all similar policies together as part of an overall review. What you are looking for is how those different policies, as well as the way the policy is delivered in practice, are affecting different groups within your school community. If you think it would be more manageable to review a large policy or policy framework on its own, then you can complete a separate EqIA – whatever makes the process manageable and meaningful for your school.

1.10 Do I need to do an EqIA on an adopted policy?

No – you don't need to repeat an EqIA on an adopted policy which has already been assessed if any amendments you have made would not result in a different impact. If there are any doubts as to whether the policy has been assessed, then the best route is to do your own EqIA.

1.11 Where can I obtain further information?

Further guidance about undertaking equality impact assessments can be found at the Commission for Equality and Human rights website: www.equalityhumanrights.com or the DfE via GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

2. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Form:

Name of policy/procedure/service & date.....

1. Identify the aims of the policy/procedure/service/function and how it is implemented.			
	Key Questions	Answer/Notes	Actions required
1.1	Is this an existing or new Policy/Procedure?		
1.2	Who defines or defined the Policy/Procedure?		
1.3	What is the objective or purpose of the Policy/Procedure?		
1.4	<p>In relation to the Protected Characteristics (Equalities Groups) is there anything in the Policy/Procedure or how the Service is delivered that could discriminate or disadvantage any of these groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age (staff only) • disability • gender reassignment • marriage and civil partnership (staff only) • pregnancy and maternity • race • religion or belief (including lack of belief) • sex • sexual orientation 		
1.5	<p>In relation to other groups who do not share a protected characteristic but that we have identified as potentially vulnerable to discrimination e.g. low income families, young carers, Children Looked After etc., is there anything in the Policy or procedure or how the Service is delivered that could lead to discrimination or disadvantage them?</p>		
2. Assessment of Impact			
2.1	Have you identified any differential impact and does this adversely affect any of the Protected Characteristics (Equalities Groups)? (See 1.4 above)		
2.2	Regarding any group of people who do not share a protected characteristic but were identified as potentially vulnerable to discrimination in Section 1.5 above, have you identified any differential impact that adversely affects them?		
NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS:			