



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust

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# Forest Lodge Academy

## Equality Information and Objectives (Public Sector Equality Duty) Statement

### Policy Information

|                |   |
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| Document name  | Equalities Information and Objectives Statement |
| Date approved  | February 2023                                   |
| Date issued    | <b>AGB Approved 12<sup>th</sup> March 24</b>    |
| Date of review | <b>Spring 2025</b>                              |

## Equalities Statement and Objectives

### **Introduction**

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that its academies and central team have due regard to equality in all of its actions, in both its employment and dealings with staff, as well as its education provision.

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust and its member academies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

### **Obligations under the Equality Act 2010?**

The obligations under the Equality Act 2010 apply to how an academy treats pupils and prospective pupils, and its employees and other staff.

Under the Equality Act 2010, an academy must not discriminate, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to:

- Admissions
- The way it provides education for pupils
- How it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service
- Excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment

Academies are also under a duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils and staff with disabilities.

### **Discrimination**

The Act defines a number of types of discrimination, including:

- Direct discrimination
- Indirect discrimination
- Failing to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils or staff
- Discrimination arising from disability
- Harassment related to a protected characteristic
- Victimisation of someone because they have made, or helped with, a complaint about discrimination

**Direct discrimination** is when someone is treated less favourably than someone else because of their protected characteristic(s).

**Indirect discrimination** is when a provision that applies to everyone principally disadvantages particular groups.

**Harassment** is unwanted conduct with the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity, or which creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

**Victimisation** is when a person is subjected to a detriment because they have carried out a 'protected act' such as: complaining about harassment, bringing a claim under the Act, getting involved in another person's complaint.

### **Protected Characteristics**

The Act uses the term "protected characteristics" to refer to aspects of a person's identity. Treating a person less favourably because they have one or more of these characteristics would be unlawful. The protected characteristics are:

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

The protected characteristics of age and marriage and civil partnership apply to schools & academies as employers, but not in relation to their provision for pupils.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)**

The PSED was introduced by the Equality Act 2010, bringing together previous equality law under one umbrella, replacing the existing race, disability and gender equalities duties and extended the protection to further 'protected characteristics'.

The equality duty applies to all academies across all phases and places duties on leaders, trustees and governors to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people.

The duty provides a framework to help focus attention on the impact of decisions and policies on specific groups, to identify priorities and strategies to tackle them.

The two specific duties required by academies to demonstrate that they are compliant with the PSED are:

- To publish information to show how they are complying with the Equality Duty. This must be updated at least annually.
- To prepare and publish one or more specific and measurable equality objectives at least every four years.

## What is meant by 'Due Regard'?

Academies must integrate the equality duty into the way they carry out their functions. 'Due regard' means giving 'relevant and proportionate consideration to the duty' and that schools/academies ensure that they actively consider the equality implications for their pupils and staff with protected characteristics in all aspects of their policy development and decision making.

Academies must separately consider each of the three elements of the duty (e.g. eliminating discrimination must be considered separately from fostering good relations) and should record the steps that they have taken to show 'due regard'.

## Publishing Information and Objectives

Specific duties require academies to publish information on how they are complying with the equality duty and to set out and publish their equality objectives.

- **Publishing equalities information** that demonstrates how the academy is complying with the equality duty must be published and updated **at least annually**.
- **Prepare and publish equality objectives** that should be clearly defined, measurable commitments, agreed with the governing body and kept under review, and must be updated **at least once every four years**.

The government is clear that the duties should not be overly burdensome on academies, and they will not be required to collect any statistical data which they do not already collect routinely. It is up to an individual academy to decide how they publish the required equality information. The information must be accessible to those in the school community and the public.

For most academies, the simplest approach may be to set up an equalities page on their website where all this information is present and links to it are available.

Academies may also find it useful to publish some information on the following alongside each objective:

- Why objectives have been chosen, including any relevant consultation and engagement.
- A short description of what their plans to achieve each objective are and how it will demonstrate success.

## Measurable Objectives

Objectives might be linked to challenges the academy is already responding to in the school improvement plan or can address issues and concerns identified through consultation with pupils, staff and parents.

Some of the challenges that equality objectives can address include:

- Narrowing gaps in attainment between groups of pupils, for example girls and boys
- Improving school attendance of pupils from particular groups
- Increasing the participation of particular groups in school activities
- Reducing prejudice-related bullying and the use of derogatory language
- Improving knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable pupils to appreciate and value difference and diversity – for example increasing understanding between pupils from different faith communities
- Improving the participation and engagement of different groups of parents and communities

They should be clearly focused and demonstrate measurable outcomes. Including a time framework, that indicates when an objective will have been in part or wholly achieved, will also enable success to be measurable.

Equality objectives should be clearly relevant to the groups with protected characteristics named in the Equality Act but may refer also to groups disadvantaged by social and economic factors.

The Trust's expectations are that academies will have at least 3 targets that reflect the following:

- One focused on pupil outcomes and relating to an issue/characteristic affecting a disproportionately large share of their pupils compared to the national average; this will help to ensure our academy is able to take action which will have an impact on a significant scale.
- One objective focused on outcomes and relating to an issue/characteristic significantly affecting a small share of pupils compared to the national average. Research nationally suggests some of the largest and most stubborn 'gaps' in outcomes are in academies with very small numbers of children with that particular characteristic – such pupils should not be overlooked.
- One objective relating to actions with a wider scope/impact, perhaps in relation to curriculum content, enrichment activities, developing the 'whole child', whole school values and behaviours, work with parents/carers and the wider community or a workforce issue; this will ensure equality is not seen exclusively in relation to pupil outcome measures.

Depending on the size and the specific context, an Academy may decide to set more than three objectives.

### **Review and Impact**

Academies should keep their equality objectives under review as they would with elements of any school improvement plan. It may be helpful for academies to develop a specific action plan that can help map activities that will be needed to achieve an objective. However, there is no requirement to publish an explicit and separate action plan. It is also good practice to publish some information on the progress that is being made towards meeting the equality objectives the academy has set itself.

The trust will monitor the ongoing impact of the changes on those who may be affected in the following ways:

- Tracking of pupil achievement across the Trust with an additional focus on equality groups
- Staff surveys and consultation that demonstrates emotional health and wellbeing, engagement and involvement
- Parent/carer surveys

### **The Role of Trustees**

Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Trust and its academies comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and adopts the overarching Trust Equalities Policy. Through the Scheme of Delegation, the Trust Board assigns local adaptation of the policy for each academy.

### **The Role of Academy Governing Bodies**

Academy Governing Bodies are responsible for ensuring that the academy meets the requirements of equality legislation at a local level. Essentially this means they should:

- Ensure the academy takes all reasonable steps to ensure that its employees do not carry out unlawful discriminatory actions or behaviour.
- Support and guide the academy to have “due regard” for equality in all its functions.
- Ensure the academy complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty and meets the two “specific duties” for academies.
- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the academy, including to staff, pupils and parents
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years

- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives to the Headteacher

The responsibility for implementation of the policy rests with the Headteacher of each academy. See L.E.A.D. model equality policy.

### **The Trust as an Employer**

The Trust has an obligation to provide a workplace that is free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. This obligation is managed through the Trust HR Policies. The Trust's HR policies are subject to full consultation and are continually reviewed.

### **Links with other Policies**

This policy and its ethos applies to every policy, procedure and guidance document that is produced in relation to pupils, staff, parents and governance.

The following policies are particularly relevant to achieving the objectives of this policy:

- SEND policy
- Admissions policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Students with medical needs policy
- Accessibility plans (for each academy)
- Recruitment and selection policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Conduct policy
- All other employment policies

## EQUALITY OBJECTIVES PLAN 2022- 2026

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>How will the impact of action be monitored?</b>  | <b>Who is responsible</b>       | <b>Timeframe</b>  | <b>Impact – annual review<br/>Review date:</b>  |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Implement a programme of equality, diversity, and inclusion training across the Trust, using our online platform, as well as additional bespoke training, to continue the understanding and help eliminate discrimination.  | Programme of training in the L.E.A.D. Equate brochure and evaluations taken.<br><br>Part of the mandatory online training for all staff. Data from online training monitored for participation. | HR and CPD lead<br><br>CPD lead | By September 2022 | Data collated on staff completion across the Trust on an annual basis. 90% of participants rated the training as 'good'<br><br>100% completion rate |
| All academies to have Equalities policy and objectives.   | Compliance checks annually  | Director of Schools             | By January 2023   | Equality plans published on website and reviewed annually   |
| Analyse performance related data to narrow the gap for identified vulnerable group across the Trust.  | Termly Quality Assurance visits   | Director of Schools             | By January 2023   | Outcome of analysis published on academies and Trust website  |
| Ensure the recruitment and professional development policies and procedures across the Trust are inclusive and promote equality of opportunity to reflect our commitment to ensure our workforce is as diverse as possible. | Review processes and issue, to all academies, any amendments to the guidance.   | HR                              | By April 2023     | Gather staff feedback that reflects a culture of inclusivity and equality of opportunity in accessing training and promotion opportunities.         |
| Promote and monitor the involvement of all groups of students,  | Quality Assurance visits  | Director of Schools             | By July 2023      | Academies to publish analysis on websites   |



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| and specifically those with protected characteristics, in the enrichment and extra- curricular aspects of the academies within the Trust. |  |                     |                   |  |
| All academies to report on impact and actions taken annually.   | Compliance checks annually   | Director of Schools | By September 2023 | Published impact and actions updated on websites |
| Ensure that the HR information system offers 'self-service' to enable employees to self-report on disability, ethnicity etc.              | Work with the academies and HR system to implement across the Trust. | HR and academies    | By September 2024 | In place and being utilised by staff.            |
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# **Equality Policy & Objectives**

## Policy Information

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|----------------|--|
| Document name  | Equality Policy                          |
| Date approved  | February 2023 AGB 12 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Date issued    | <b>February 2023</b>                     |
| Date of review | <b>Spring 2025</b>                       |

## Aims

Our academy aims to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

## Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- The Equality Act 2010, which introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty and protects people from discrimination
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011, which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: The Equality Act 2010 and schools, and complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## Roles and responsibilities

### The Role of Trustees

Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Trust and its academies comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and adopt the overarching Trust Equalities Policy. Through the Scheme of Delegation, the Trust Board assigns local adaptation of the policy for each academy.

## **The role of Academy Governing Bodies**

Academy Governing Bodies (AGBs) are the “responsible body” for ensuring that the academy meets the requirements of equality legislation. Essentially this means they should:

- Ensure the academy takes all reasonable steps to ensure that its employees do not carry out unlawful discriminatory actions or behaviour.
- Support and guide the academy to have “due regard” for equality in all its functions.
- Ensure the academy complies with the Equality Duty and meets the two “specific duties” for academies.
- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the academy, including to staff, pupils and parents
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on to the Headteacher.

The equality link governor is Karen Cane. They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they’re familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full governing board regarding any issues

## **The Role of the Headteacher**

- Ensure that the L.E.A.D. Academy Trust policy is adopted and implemented
- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The designated member of staff for equality will: Umrana Malik (Deputy Headteacher) Jo Moore (RSHE) Lead

- Support the headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Meet with the equality link governor every year to raise and discuss any issues
- Support the headteacher in identifying any staff training needs, and deliver training as necessary

All academy staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives.

## **Eliminating discrimination**

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

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

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act – for example, during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting, it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

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

The academy has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues, and an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

## **Advancing equality of opportunity**

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

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people that are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of academy societies)

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

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

## **Fostering good relations**

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

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, citizenship and

personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures

- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising academy trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the academy. For example, our academy council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the academy's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- Developing links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach.

## **Equality considerations in decision-making**

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

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

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

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

## **Equality objectives**

The academy aims to set three objectives:

- One focused on pupil outcomes and relating to an issue/characteristic affecting a disproportionately large share of our pupils compared to the national average; this will help to ensure our academy is able to take action which will have an impact on a significant scale.
- One objective focused on outcomes and relating to an issue/characteristic significantly affecting a small share of pupils compared to the national average. Research nationally suggests some of the largest and most stubborn 'gaps' in outcomes are in academies with very small numbers of children with that particular characteristic – such pupils should not be overlooked.

- One objective relating to actions with a wider scope/impact, perhaps in relation to curriculum content, enrichment activities, developing the 'whole child', whole school values and behaviours, work with parents/carers and the wider community or a workforce issue; this will ensure equality is not seen exclusively in relation to pupil outcome measures.

## **Requirement to publish information annually:**

The academy will publish an annual update on the website, starting in Spring 2023. This update will include:

- Pupil information: academy level data about the composition of the pupil population and their outcomes, in relation to gender, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability, race/ethnicity and those with English as an Additional Language (EAL), children who are/have been Looked After (CLA) and pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), or who more broadly qualify for the Pupil Premium.

## **Links with other policies**

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Risk assessment
- Prevent
- SEND
- RSHE

## EQUALITY OBJECTIVES PLAN 2022- 2026

**Please note these are examples to illustrate the three targets**

| Target  | Actions   | How will the impact of action be monitored?<br>Who is responsible  | Timeframe | Impact – annual review<br>Review date:  |
|---|---|--|-----------|---|
| 1.<br>Ensure pupil premium pupils improve their current flight path. Small steps are made throughout the year for pupil premium pupils working below ARE. | <p>Develop effective provision that meets the needs of pupil premium pupils</p> <p>Implement accurate, time bound, bespoke provision for pupil premium pupils to reach agreed targets (National Tutoring Programme and Catch up tuition)</p> <p>Review pupil premium pupils work half termly to establish if needs are met</p> <p>Review pupil premium funding to ensure that it is used to good effect</p> | <p>Key performance indicators reviewed termly (SLT)</p> <p>Monitoring of progress of PP pupils termly, identifying trends and next steps (ID)</p> <p>% attendance in the academy of PP pupils a focus (SLT for attendance)</p> <p>Attitudes to learning ie 90% engagement (ID)</p> | Termly    | <p>July 2023 – ongoing into the following academic year.</p> <p>SLT Agenda item, when reviewing AIP.</p>                                    |
| 2.<br>To keep Children safe from bullying, racist or other discriminatory behaviour   | <p>Regularly review the effectiveness of our systems for recording incidences of discriminatory behaviours including bullying racism and PREVENT on DCPRO.</p> <p>Annually communicate with parents and carers on our effective behaviour management strategies</p>   | <p>Behaviour Lead (AHT) to regularly review the effectiveness of our systems for recording and report analysis.</p> <p>Reduction in incidents</p> <p>Pupil Interviews (RSHE Lead)</p>  | Termly    | <p>SLT Agenda item, when reviewing AIP.</p> <p>Safeguarding Governor to be aware of data and monitor improvement.</p> <p>Staff Handbook</p> |



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|   | <p>to ensure they are fully understood.</p> <p>Teachers are aware of research based evidence and is a continuous area within the staff working groups, during staff meeting time. New ideas and information is hared with staff continuously.</p> <p>Continue to educate pupils, staff and parents about CP issues, e-safety and cyberbullying</p>                 | <p>Computing curriculum has annual plan for e-safety.</p>  |               |   |
| <p>3. Provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities to develop cultural capital and to nurture, enhance and stretch pupil's talents and interests, increasing the participation of particular groups in school activities.</p> | <p>Hold an annual Reaching Out Week/Enterprise week and try to include professionals from diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>Promote and monitor attendance at extra curricular programmes to ensure representation which reflects the school population and specifically those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Review of curriculum in relation to diversity.</p> | <p>Monitoring of the curriculum (Subject Leaders) (Curriculum Team)</p> <p>Increase in opportunities to celebrate diversity through the curriculum and noted in QA visits.</p> <p>Monitoring of attendance of clubs, of pupils and parent event.</p> | <p>Termly</p> | <p>Curriculum review Summer term 2023 with changes implemented where needed form September 2023.</p> <p>Subject end of year impact report.</p> <p>Pupil Passports Review attendance of clubs etc.</p> <p>SLT Agenda item, when reviewing AIP.</p> |
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