



Truro and Penwith
Academy Trust

Equality Policy

Helston Community College

This is a Trust model policy. For a School specific policy please visit the School website.

Review Summary

Approved By:	Trust Board
Approval Date:	23 March 2022
Last Review Date:	23 March 2022
Next Review Date:	March 2026

Check list for trustees, school staff and governors at Helston Community College

Is information collected on race, disability and gender with regards to both pupils and staff e.g. pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions, and staff training? Is this information used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities the school provides?

Has your Equality Plan been shaped by the views, input and involvement of staff, parents and pupils?

Is pupil achievement analysed by race, disability and gender? Are there trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action, and has action been taken to address these?

Does the curriculum include opportunities to understand the issues related to race, disability and gender?

Are all pupils encouraged to participate in school life? Are pupils who make a positive contribution reflective of the school's diversity e.g. through class assemblies / school council?

Is bullying and harassment of pupils and staff monitored by race, disability and gender, and is this information used to make a difference to the experience of other pupils? Are racist incidents reported to the governing body and local authority on a termly basis?

Are visual displays reflective of the diversity of your school community? How are minority ethnic, disabled and both male and female role models promoted positively in lessons, displays and discussions such as circle time and class assemblies?

Is the school environment as accessible as possible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school? Are open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend held in an accessible part of the school, and are issues such as language barriers considered?

Are the accessibility needs of parents, pupils and staff considered in the publishing and sending out of information, in terms of age, race, disability and gender?

Are procedures for the election of parent governors open to all eligible candidates and voters, being inclusive of age, race, disability and gender?

Helston Community College

Equality Policy

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1. Mission statement

At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to the following protected characteristics: age (as appropriate), disability (SEND), ethnicity, gender (including issues of transgender and of maternity/paternity and pregnancy), religion and belief, and sexual identity. We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by groups including: SEND, FSM, race, and gender and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Truro and Penwith Academy Trust's Commitment to Equality

We are committed to:

- ***Eliminating discrimination and harassment in all areas***
- ***Making our school safe and secure for all***
- ***Promoting equality of opportunity. We will ensure that every pupil has access to the necessary support required to enable them to achieve their highest potential***
- ***Promoting good relations and positive attitudes towards all people***
- ***Developing tolerance, empathy and respect for people of all religions and beliefs***
- ***Encouraging active participation in the life and work of the community***

Our commitment covers equality on grounds of all protected characteristics listed above. We expect all our trustees, staff and local governing body members to put in place our commitment and organisation's values by:

- ***Ensuring a high standard of behaviour, we will ensure that the school's procedures for disciplining pupils and managing behaviour are fair, effective and equitable***
- ***Responding quickly to complaints and incidents in a positive and pro-active way***
- ***Providing equality of access to services, facilities and information***
- ***Ensuring that the adults working or volunteering in the school where possible, are a balanced gender mix, appropriate representation of diverse ethnic groups and disabled people. We believe that this will provide good role models for pupils from all backgrounds.***
- ***Promoting activities that celebrate our common experience as well as those that recognise diversity and foster understanding and respect for the culture and faith of all our learners and their families***
- ***Where possible planning to meet the specific needs of individual pupils within the recognised protected characteristics and FSM pupils.***

2. Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

Teaching and learning

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- Monitor achievement data of all groups and respond to any gaps with appropriate targeted interventions;
- Take account of the enjoyment and achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting 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 the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping;
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures within the context of the five British values (Parents have the right to withdraw their child from certain aspects of this);
- Teach and show tolerance of and empathy for others;
- Ensure children understand that they have a voice and contribute to our school, local, national and global communities;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- Encourage classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Utilise teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils.

Admissions and exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent and do not discriminate on the grounds of any of the protective factors listed above.

Exclusions will always be based on the school's Behaviour Policy and sanctions and consequences. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

3. Equal Opportunities for Staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff at Truro and Penwith Academy Trust. We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment. All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.

Employer duties

As an employer we need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce. Equality aspects such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention including bullying and harassment of staff;
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- Performance Management support to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

4. Equality and the law

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. There are a number of statutory duties that must be met by every school in line with the Equality Act 2010.

According to the Act it is unlawful for a school to discriminate against a pupil, prospective pupil or member of staff by treating them less favourably because of their:

- age
- sex
- race
- disability (SEND)
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy or maternity
- plus community cohesion

It is also unlawful to discriminate by 'association' or 'perception'. That is, schools may not discriminate on the grounds of the above listed protected characteristics by virtue of a child's association with another person, such as, for example, a parent or other family member; or due to a characteristic that one thinks a child may have (actually or by association), even if the judgement is mistaken. At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we take this view in relation to all individual school members.

4a. Age

Truro and Penwith Academy Trust will ensure that individuals are not singled out for less favorable or inequitable treatment due to their age.

4b. Sex/Gender

Truro and Penwith Academy Trust will ensure that individuals of one sex are not singled out for different and less favorable treatment from that given to other individuals. We ensure that there are no practices which could result in unfair, less favorable treatment of females or males.

Under our general duty we will actively seek to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex and gender;
- Promote equality between genders.

4c. Race

The definition of race includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we will make sure that individuals of all races are not singled out for different and less favourable treatment from that given to individuals. We will check that there are no practices which could result in unfair, less favorable treatment.

4d. Disability

This section should be read in conjunction with the school's SEND Policy.

The Equality Duty requires schools to make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities. At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we fulfill this duty by taking reasonable steps to avoid placing a person with identified disability at a disadvantage compared to others. We do it through providing auxiliary aids, services and support.

The Act defines disability as when a person has a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.' Some specified medical conditions, such as HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer are all considered as disabilities, regardless of their effect.

Accessibility Plans

The school has a provision accessibility plan written which is attached to this policy. (Appendix 1)

In the long term the intention is to ensure that we are wholly accessible in curricular, premises and communication terms to all people that we serve. Should any prospective child or member of staff be in need of premises adaption, the Headteacher will inform County PFI team immediately.

4e. Religion or Belief

The Equality Act defines "religion" as being any religion, and "belief" as any religious or philosophical belief. A lack of religion or lack of belief are also protected characteristics.

The Equality Act makes it clear that unlawful religious discrimination can include discrimination against another person of the same religion or belief as the discriminator.

4f. Sexual Orientation

At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we ensure that all LGBTQIA+ individuals are treated fairly [LGBTQIA+ is an inclusive term that includes people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies. While each letter in LGBTQIA+ stands for a specific group of people, the term encompasses the entire spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities.] We check that there are no practices which could result in unfair, less favourable treatment.

4g. Marriage or Civil Partnership

Truro and Penwith Academy Trust recognise that a person is legally married if the union is recognised as a marriage under UK law. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples.

4h. Gender Reassignment

The protection against discrimination because of gender reassignment now matches the protection because of sexual orientation in schools. That is protection from direct and indirect discrimination and victimisation, which includes discrimination based on perception and on association. Truro and Penwith Academy Trust will ensure that all gender variant school members are not singled out for different and less favourable treatment from that given to others.

4i. Pregnancy or Maternity/Paternity

Protection from discrimination because of pregnancy and maternity in schools means that it will be unlawful for schools to treat an individual differently because she becomes pregnant or has recently had a baby, or because she is breastfeeding.

4j. Community cohesion

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserted a new section 21(5) to the Education Act 2002, introducing a duty on the governing bodies of state schools to promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between pupils from different races, faiths / beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. The duty came into force on 1 September 2007.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Board of Trustees is to:

- ensure all policies give due regard to the individual school plan (Appendix 1)
- support the Chief Executive to implement the Trust Equality policy and school plans with Headteachers and LGBs
- monitor and evaluate achievement, provision and employment data in line with the Equality policy and plan

The role of Local Governing Board (LGB) members is to:

- support the Headteacher in implementing the Equality policy;
- ensure all policies give due regard to the plan;
- ensure that no one is discriminated against at appointment; and
- evaluate achievement, provision and curriculum in line with the Equality policy and plan.

The role of the Headteacher is to:

- implement the Trust Equality Policy and School Plan, supported by the LGB body in doing so;
- ensure that all staff are aware of the Equality Plan, and that teachers apply these guidelines fairly in all situations;
- ensure that all appointments panels give due regard to this plan, so that no-one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities;
- promote the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promotes respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life;
- treat all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness; and
- ensure ongoing monitoring activities are completed and actions are implemented in line with the Equality policy and plan.

The role of all staff is to:

- ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the Trust Equality Policy and School Plan;
- strive to provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images;
- challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the Headteacher, in line with school procedures;
- support the work of ancillary or support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents; and
- monitor progress through the use of data trends and intervene on an individual or group basis where necessary.

Where individuals are concerned, having a view about something does not amount to discrimination. So it is not unlawful for a school member to express personal views, however, it must be done in an appropriate manner and context, reflecting our whole school ethos. (For example when responding to questions from pupils, or in an RE or Personal, Social, Health Citizenship and Economic education (PSHCE) lesson). However, it should be remembered that those working in schools are in a very influential position and their actions and responsibilities are bound by much wider duties than this legislation associated with the Equality Act. An individual's ability to express his or her views must not extend to allowing them to discriminate against others.

6. Tackling discrimination

The Act defines four kinds of unlawful behaviour – direct discrimination; indirect discrimination; harassment and victimisation. See Appendix 2 for glossary of terms

Discriminatory incidents

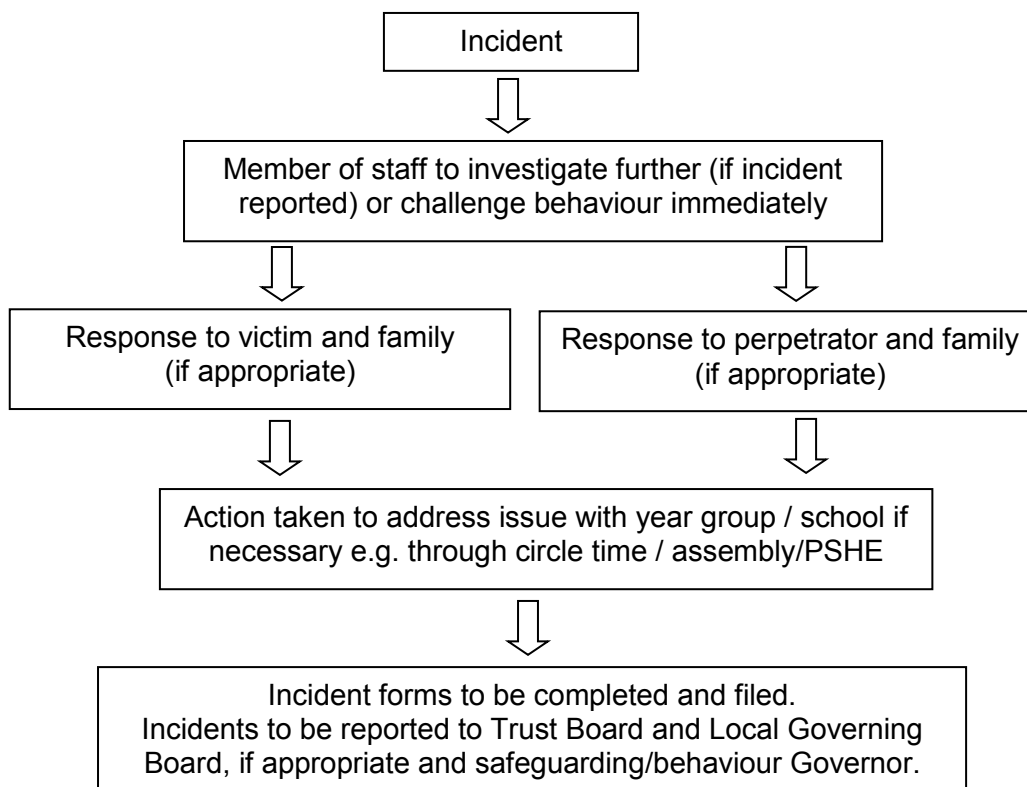
Discrimination can take many forms, including the following examples:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender or other protected characteristic;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into school;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully due to victim's race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc; and
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as: 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'. We take this view with all discriminatory incidents and deal with them under the guidance of this policy.

Responding to and reporting incidents

At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust we believe that dealing with discriminatory incidents is vital to the ethos of the school and well-being of all its members. There are clear recording and reporting incidents within school and reports are communicated to TPAT as appropriate.



7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Policy and Plan has been agreed by our Trust Board of Directors and the Local Governing Body at Helston Community College School. At Truro and Penwith Academy Trust, we have a rolling programme for reviewing our Trust policies and their impact. We will review the Policy and Plan on a 4 year cycle. We will also review progress towards the Plan annually in line with the School Development Plan.

8. Publishing the Policy & Plan

In order to meet the statutory requirements we will:

- publish our plan on the Trust / School website;
- raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications; and
- make sure hard copies are available.

Headteacher

Dated _____



Chair of Governors

Dated 29/09/2023

9. ACTION PLAN

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Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
All	Publish and promote the Equality Plan through the school website, newsletter and staff meetings.	Question about parent / carer awareness of the Equality Policy and Plan in annual survey?	Headteacher	After Equality Plan is agreed by governing body every four years	Staff are familiar with the principles of the Equality Policy and Plan and use them when planning lessons, creating class room displays Parents are aware of the Equality Policy and Plan
All	Monitor and analyse student achievement and student welfare by SEND, Disadvantaged, gender (significant numbers in groups) and prior attainment. Act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.	Achievement, welfare, behaviour and attendance data analysed. Termly meetings: Headteacher and SENCo Monitoring & Evaluation foci for subject leaders. Reported to staff and Governors Termly monitoring by Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Governor.	Headteacher LGB SENDCO SLT	Termly in Headteacher's report to Governors. Data and tracking. Termly Student Progress Meetings.	Analysis of teacher assessments / annual data demonstrates the gap is narrowing for equality groups. Support is in place termly for groups or individuals
All	Ensure that the curriculum positively promotes diverse role models and heroes. Ensure that displays in classrooms and corridors promote diversity. Ensure assemblies promote equality and include positive content and images, which celebrate diversity. Encourage children's voices and contribution to reflections on diversity. British Values are explored through the curriculum.	Increase in students' participation, confidence and achievement levels.	Assistant Headteacher Safeguarding Assistant Headteacher Personal Development PSHE Lead	Ongoing	Increase in participation and confidence of targeted groups, diversity reflected in displays around College, appreciation of diversity reflected in behaviour in all members of the College community

9. ACTION PLAN

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
All	Investigate Accessibility Plan and ensure that building is in line with agreements and expectations of Equality Act. Risk Assessments and development of shared areas to ensure they are accessible and safe.	Observations. SENDCo other staff discussions. Governor monitoring visit. Health and Safety Termly Meeting	Headteacher and LGB H & S Lead	Review Accessibility Plan annually Risk assessments ongoing	Action Plan, Accessibility plan and Risk assessments in place.
Community Cohesion	Develop opportunities for community links locally, nationally and internationally.	Displays, books, curriculum evidence, visitors, trips and events.	Headteacher Geography, History and RE lead teachers. Curriculum LGB	On-going termly	Local, national and global learning and citizenship developed. Attitude, knowledge, experience and understanding of other cultures enhanced.
Disadvantaged and SEND	Enhance the wider College provision for students regardless of income including enrichment activities, careers guidance and personal development.	Pupil Premium funding expenditure. Analysis of trips/residential take up and extra-curricular activities. Analysis of destination data and participation in careers.	Headteacher PP Governor Assistant Headteacher – Pupil Premium and Personal Development SENDCO	Termly	Any identified gaps in take up of enrichment activities and extra-curricular activities is narrowed.
Communication	Ensure publications, other information and documents are available in alternative formats. Implement of new communication systems and updated website.	Termly website checks to ensure information is up to date. Attendance of parent and carers at College events.	SLT	Ongoing	Increased numbers of parents and carers attending events, PTCs and Parent Forums. Parent and carers engaging with staff to support their children.

9. ACTION PLAN

Equality Strand	Action	How will the impact of the action be monitored?	Who is responsible for implementing?	What are the timeframes?	Early success indicators
Premises	<p>Increase site access to meet diverse needs of new students, staff, parents and community users.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate systems for lift accessibility are in place on North site.</p> <p>Ensure that, where possible, students with mobility or accessibility needs have access to suitable classrooms on South site (ground floor/exterior classrooms).</p>	<p>Governors</p> <p>Headteacher</p> <p>Ongoing site visits from County Physical and Sensory Need teams</p>	Site Manager, Headteacher	Ongoing	Physical improvements to the College environment and facilities improve access for disabled students to education, facilities, and associated services. The site also caters for the varying needs of parents/ carers and community users.
Gender	<p>Monitor more closely the gender split for participation in enrichment opportunities. Develop strategies to address issues that the monitoring process may generate.</p> <p>Encourage more students from a range of genders to apply for leadership roles.</p>	Termly data analysis of ECA	Assistant Headteacher – Pupil Premium and Personal Development	Termly	<p>Equal access to trips.</p> <p>Increase the diversity among the student leadership team.</p>
Race	<p>Review and amend the KS3 curriculum, ensuring that it provides a range of positive images that reflect the diverse communities of modern Britain.</p> <p>All subjects to audit their curriculum and set up to three equality and diversity targets based on the Equality Act 2010 and protected characteristics.</p>	Annual review of equality objectives	Assistant Headteacher – Pupil Premium and Personal Development	Annual	<p>More diversity in curriculum areas.</p> <p>Subject areas planning, implementing and reviewing equality targets.</p>
Sexuality	<p>Signposting students to resources in school and outside of school via PSHE lessons and tutor times.</p> <p>Signpost students to the student incident reporting form.</p> <p>Increase use of the Intercom Trust for staff and student training sessions.</p>	<p>Lesson observations</p> <p>CPD evaluation</p> <p>Number of incidents logged</p>	<p>Senior Assistant Headteacher</p> <p>Behaviour</p> <p>Assistant Headteacher – Pupil Premium and Personal Development</p>	Ongoing	<p>Students gaining support from PSAs and pastoral staff.</p> <p>Lower levels of incidents logged over time.</p>

Appendix 1: Provision Accessibility Plan

This accessibility plan is to be reviewed by the Finance, Employment and Audit Committee of the Trust Board and relevant LGB in conjunction with the Equality plan.

How does the College deliver the curriculum?	
Do you ensure that teachers and teaching assistants have the necessary training to teach and support all students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs are regularly reviewed for all staff. • Staff inset and staff meetings have SEND/PP provision per term as well as half termly meetings. • The College provides SENDCo, Teaching Assistants, PP support, and designated lunchtime supervisors with appropriate training, as well as staff who run wrap around care and clubs.
Are your classrooms optimally organised for all students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms are accessible for all and learning resources support the needs of all students. • SENDCo identifies any additional environment needs in discussion with class teachers. • Subject leaders ensure that materials and resources support the students and teachers.
Do lessons provide opportunities for all students to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers have high expectations of all students this is reflected in the Learning and Teaching, behaviour and conduct, achievement and standards. • A range of strategies are deployed at classroom level to ensure that the needs of all learners are met. • Additional resources for students are implemented to remove barriers to learning eg specialist support, family support, resources including furniture, visual timetables, additional teachers and relevant ICT equipment. • Staff implement recommendations from external professional agencies. • All students have opportunities within lessons, extra-curricular and College events to participate in a wide range of creative, sporting, scientific, technical, social activities in addition to the core subjects.
Is the College, including lessons, responsive to student diversity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE, PSHE, Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) cover diversity and lessons are planned in line with our College, local, national and global communities. • The College reviews the assembly programme each year to ensure equality issues are featured. • The College regularly updates diversity displays in the College. • Lessons are structured and adapted for individual needs. • Termly monitoring of progress of individuals and groups by teachers, middle leaders and by members of the senior leadership team. • There is a robust transition package to ensure that the College is aware of the needs of its new students. • The College implements a Charging Policy and Pupil Premium Policy; spending facilitates additional support and resources. • The College completes risk assessments.

Is the College designed to meet the needs of all students?	
Does the size and layout of the College environment allow access for all students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College meets the needs of the current College population. • The College responds to individual needs as they arise. • All rooms are well lit, corridors are wide. • The College budget allows for reasonable adjustments/best endeavours in line with the Equality Act. • A H & S audit is carried out and actions addressed and monitored by Governors, Headteacher and the Trust. • The College has trained Fire Marshalls and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in the event of a College evacuation • The College provides access to canteen areas at lunchtime, gardens and grounds.
Are pathways around the College site and parking arrangements safe, routes logical and well signed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site Supervisor conducts daily risk assessments of the College site. • H & S Governors and Headteacher monitoring twice annually as well as day to day issues reported to the Trust. • The College website, newsletter, and assemblies include advice and reminders about safe access, behaviour and movement around the College.
How does the school communicate?	
Do you provide information in a variety of formats for students, parents / carers and other College members?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College endeavours to provide all information and forms in whatever format or language is needed (upon request). • Teachers plan for all learner types and students are encouraged to record in different formats. • The College has a regularly updated website, produces a monthly newsletter viewable on the website, uses Parent texting when appropriate and makes phone calls home, holds face to face meetings and events, encourages communication with all members of staff. A weekly Bulletin is sent out to College members to keep them up to date with the latest information.

Appendix 2 Glossary of Terms

- **Direct discrimination** occurs when one person treats another less favourably, because of a protected characteristic, than they treat – or would treat – other people. This describes the most clear-cut and obvious examples of discrimination – for example if a school were to refuse to let a pupil be a house captain because she has a physical disability.
- **Indirect discrimination** occurs when a “provision, criterion or practice” is applied generally but has the effect of putting people with a particular characteristic at a disadvantage when compared to people without that characteristic. An example might be holding a parents’ meeting on a Friday evening, which could make it difficult for observant Jewish parents to attend. It is a defence against a claim of indirect discrimination if it can be shown to be “a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim”. This means both that the reason for the rule or practice is legitimate, and that it could not reasonably be achieved in a different way which did not discriminate.
- **Harassment** has a specific legal definition in the Act - it is “unwanted conduct, related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating a person’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person”. This covers unpleasant and bullying behaviour, but potentially extends also to actions which, whether intentionally or unintentionally, cause offence to a person because of a protected characteristic.
- Where schools are concerned, the offence of harassment as defined in this way in the Act applies only to harassment because of disability, race, sex or pregnancy and maternity, and not to religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment. It is very important to recognise that this does **not** mean that schools are free to bully or harass pupils on these other grounds - to do so would still be unlawful as well as unacceptable. Any case against the school would be on grounds of direct discrimination rather than harassment.
- **Victimisation** occurs when a person is treated less favourably than they otherwise would have been because of something they have done (“a protected act”) in connection with the Act. A protected act might involve, for example, making an allegation of discrimination or bringing a case under the Act, or supporting another person’s complaint by giving evidence or information, but it includes anything that is done under or in connection with the Act. Even if what a person did or said was incorrect or misconceived, for example based on a misunderstanding of the situation or of what the law provides, they are protected against retaliation unless they were acting in bad faith. The reason for this is to ensure that people are not afraid to raise genuine concerns about discrimination because of fear of retaliation.

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the school environment.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a pupil’s individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher / Headteacher where necessary. All incidents are reported to the Headteacher and racist incidents are reported to the governing body and local authority on a half termly basis.