School Equality Policy

Date Approved	Committee responsible for review of policy	Next Review Date	Policy on Website	Statutory Policy
March 2026	FGB	March 2027	Yes	Yes

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Humphrey

Policy taken from Hampshire County Council Manual of Personnel Practice

Introduction

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 as both a provider of education and as an employer.

We believe that all pupils and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstances. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our school. We recognise that equality will only be achieved by the whole school community working together – our pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers.

This document outlines the principles which will guide our approach to working with our school community and enabling an open culture.

For staff and prospective staff, this policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Employment Equality Policy.

National and Legal Context

We recognise that we have duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the school community to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (applicable only to staff), disability, gender reassignment, race, sex, maternity and pregnancy, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marriage and civil partnership (applicable only to staff).

We also recognise that we have a duty under the Education & Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion, i.e. developing good relations across different cultures and groups.

We also appreciate that these duties reflect the international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

School Context

At Anstey Junior School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in

which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.

At Anstey Junior School, we have three rules for the school community; be respectful, be responsible and be safe. These rules promote the belief that diversity is a strength by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

The equality and diversity profile of East Hampshire from the 2011 Census is available on this link **https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Research/EqualityandDiversityFactsheet-EastHampshire.pdf**

Anstey Junior School collects equality information, as detailed in the appendices.

To fulfil our legal obligations, we are guided by a number of principles.

1. **All pupils, families and staff are of equal value**

We see all pupils, potential pupils, their parents and carers, and staff as of equal value:

- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status
- Whatever their sex
- Whatever their gender identity
- Whatever their religious and non-religious affiliation or faith background
- Whatever their sexual orientation
- Whatever their marital status
- Whether they are currently pregnant or have recently given birth
- Whatever their age
- Whether or not they have a connection with the forces community
- Whether or not they have refugee / asylum status

- Whether or not English is their first language

2. We recognise and respect difference

We recognise that treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. We recognise that our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must take account of diversity and the kinds of barriers and disadvantage that staff, parents/carers or pupils may face in relation to their protected characteristics:

- Disability – we understand that reasonable adjustments may need to be made.
- Sex – we recognise that girls and boys, men and women have different needs.
- Gender reassignment – we recognise an individual has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if they are proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.
- Religion and belief – we acknowledge that reasonable requests in relation to religious observance and practice may need to be made and complied with.
- Ethnicity and race – we appreciate that all have different experiences as a result of our ethnic and racial backgrounds.
- Age – we value the diversity in age of staff, parents and carers.
- Sexual orientation – we respect that individuals have the right to determine their own sexual identity and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of their preference.
- Marriage and civil partnership – we recognise that our staff, parents and carers may make their own personal choices in respect of personal relationships and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of the relationships they have.
- Pregnancy and maternity – we believe that our staff, parents and carers should not experience any unfair disadvantage as a result of pregnancy or having recently given birth

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

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

- positive attitudes and interaction between groups and communities different from each other
- an absence of harassment, victimisation and discrimination in relation to any protected characteristics

4. We observe good equalities practice in relation to staff

We ensure that our policies and practices for all staff and potential staff throughout the employment lifecycle, i.e. from recruitment through to the cessation of employment and beyond, are applied fairly and consistently across all groups with full respect for legal rights, taking into account aspects applicable to particular groups (e.g. duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled staff).

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

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities avoid or minimise any possible negative impacts and we aim to reduce inequalities that exist between groups and communities different from each other.

6. We consult and involve to ensure views are heard

In our development of policies, we engage with groups and individuals, including pupils who are affected by a policy or activity to ensure that their views are taken into account. For policies and activities affecting pupils, we will take account of views expressed at school council; for parents, through parent governor representation and for staff, through staff governor representation. Where necessary, we will consult more widely with specific groups.

7. We aim to foster greater community cohesion

We intend that our policies, activities and curriculum offer foster greater social cohesion and provide for an equal opportunity to participate in public life irrespective of the protected characteristics of individuals and groups.

8. We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish information annually to show our compliance with the public sector equality duty, set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Our current equality information can be found in Appendix A to this policy statement.

Anstey Junior School has less than 150 staff therefore, the Governing Body will not be required to publish information in relation to their staff, and are only required to publish pupil-related data.

9. We set ourselves specific and measurable equality objectives

We develop and publish specific and measurable objectives every four years based on the evidence that we have gathered (principle 8) and the engagement we have been involved in (principle 7).

The objectives can be found in Appendix B to this policy statement and take into account both national, county and school level priorities.

We will set ourselves new objectives every four years, but keep them under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

Application of the principles within this policy statement:

The principles outlined in the policy statement will be applied and reflected in:

- The delivery of the school curriculum
- The teaching and learning within the school
- Our practice in relation to pupil progress, attainment and achievement
- Our teaching styles and strategies
- Our policies and practice in relation to admissions and attendance
- Our policies and practice in relation to staff
- Our care, guidance and support to pupils, their families and staff
- Our policies and practice in relation to pupil behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Our partnership working with parents and carers
- Our contact with the wider school community

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice including, but not limited to prejudice related to protected characteristics. We will ensure that prejudice-related incidents in relation to staff and pupils are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented and that arrangements are in place to deal with any concerns or unlawful action that arises.

The headteacher is responsible for implementation of this policy, ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and given appropriate training and support and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

All staff are expected to work in accordance with the principles outlined in this policy to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their practice
- deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons
- support pupils in their class who have additional needs

Date approved by the Governing Body: March 2026

Date for policy review: March 2027

Equalities Information **Appendix A**

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, pupils, parents and others in the following ways:

- *focus groups*
- *parent questionnaires*
- *involvement of the student council*
- *staff survey*
- *contact with parents representing pupils with particular protected characteristics*
- *contact with the local community and disability organisations*

Pupil-related data

This section should not be overly burdensome, and the school should be able to access a large amount of data from RAISE online, already broken down by a number of protected characteristics (The DfE advise in their guidance that the SEN characteristic can be used as a rough proxy for disability but care needs to be taken with this approach). You may also want to include comparative analysis with national and local data. Depending on the circumstances of your school, you may also want to publish relevant additional data (e.g. in relation to forces children, free school meals, pupils for whom English is an additional language etc).

Information	Evidence and commentary
Attendance by gender for 1/9/24-31/8/25	Female students (108 in total) had an overall attendance (present) rate of 95.0%. Authorised absences were 4.1%, unauthorised absences 0.9%, and physical lateness 2.6%. Male students (115 in total) had an overall attendance (present) rate of 94.7%. Authorised absences were 4.2%, unauthorised absences 1.1%, and physical lateness 2.8%.
Participation in the student council by race 2024-2025	37.5% of the student council is BME 62.5% of the student council is White British This is a higher BME % than what is reflective of the school community
Aim high awards by gender 2024-2025	47% Female, 53% Male This is broadly reflective of the school community

NOTE: Care must be taken not to enable the identification of individual pupils or families within the data published. The DfE's non-statutory guidance on the Equality Act advises that schools should consider (but are not obliged by) the DfE position on confidentiality which means that where information relates to fewer than 3 people, it is not generally published.

Staff data

Anstey Junior School has less than 150 staff therefore, the Governing Body will not be required to publish information in relation to their staff, grievances and/or disciplinary matters by protected characteristics.

Qualitative information

Anstey Junior School has published various policies on the school's internet site https://www.anstey-jun.hants.sch.uk/policies-4/. These policies evidence the school's commitment to the principles outlined in this policy and the public sector equality duty.

The school has also published other information relevant to equalities on the equality pages of the school internet site https://www.anstey-jun.hants.sch.uk/equality-statement-1/.

Date of publication of this appendix: *March 2026*

Date for review and re-publication: *March 2027*

Equality Objectives **Appendix B**

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act*
- *advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not*
- *foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not*

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, pupils, parents and others in the following ways:

- *focus groups*
- *parent questionnaires*
- *involvement of the student council*
- *staff survey*
- *contact with parents representing pupils with particular protected characteristics*
- *contact with the local community and disability organisations*

Having referred to and analysed our equality information, we have set ourselves the following objective(s):

Objective 1: To monitor and analyse pupil achievement by race, gender and disability and act on any trends or patterns in the data that require additional support for pupils.

Objective 2: To raise levels of attainment in core subjects for vulnerable learners.

Objective 3: To review levels of parental and pupil engagement in learning and school life, across all activities to ensure equality and fairness in access and engagement.

NB The legislation only requires one objective to be set and this should be pupil related. The number of objectives set should be proportionate to the size and functions of the school.

Only where schools have a large staff group is it likely to be necessary for the school to consider setting a staff or employment related objective. Schools should use the action plan on page 20 of the Public Sector Equality Duty Workbook to develop a strategy to achieve these objectives and this plan should be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.

Governance

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