



# HODGE HILL GIRLS' SCHOOL

"Educating tomorrow's women today"

## Equality and Diversity Policy

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# HODGE HILL GIRLS' SCHOOL

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## Equality and Diversity Policy

Hodge Hill Girls welcomes its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not share it.

We understand the principle of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity. Therefore, Hodge Hill Girls School will promote the rights of all individuals of respect and equality through its ethos, processes, and curriculum. We will, on every occasion, oppose all forms of prejudice and support positive attitudes towards a multi-cultural society.

We recognised that a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act covers the groups listed below:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy
- Religion and belief
- Sexual identity
- Marriage and civil partnership (for employees)

## Mission statement

As a small family school, we know and care for every child. We genuinely value and strive to enhance working partnerships with our families and our local community, knowing that in those partnerships lies our greatest strength and best hope of raising the achievement and aspirations of all our children to ensure that we really are "**Educating Tomorrow's Women Today**".

At Hodge Hill Girls School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender,

disability, faith or religion 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 able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils is monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use SISRA 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 Hodge Hill Girls School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here. The school uses the following to assess achievement; Raise online, SIMs, Sisra online, ClassCharts, Analysing School Performance.

### **Aims and Values**

Hodge Hill Girls' School is a welcoming school where everyone is valued highly and where tolerance, honesty, co-operation and mutual respect for others are fostered. We are committed to the development of the whole person within a supportive, secure and creative environment. A broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum provides equal opportunity for all students to maximise their potential regardless of age, sex, race, colour, religion or disability. We endeavour to promote positive relationships with parents, governors and members of the wider community.

At Hodge Hill Girls' School we aim to promote equality and tackle any form of discrimination and actively promote harmonious relations in all areas of school life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

### **We aim to:**

- Provide a secure environment in which all our students can flourish in an aspirational and supportive environment where the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils is integral to the ethos and vision of the school.
- Provide an inclusive learning environment where all individuals see themselves reflected and feel a sense of belonging.
- Prepare students for life in a diverse society in which children are able to see their place in the local, regional, national and international community.
- include and value the contribution of all families to our understanding of equality and diversity
- provide positive non-stereotyping information about different groups of people regardless of ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age
- plan systematically to improve our understanding and promotion of diversity; actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage
- make inclusion a thread which runs through all our activities.

### **To achieve these aims we will:**

- involve stakeholders in the development, review, evaluation, and impact assessment of all relevant improvement plans, policies and procedures
- publish and share our policies and impact assessments with the whole community on the school website
- collect and analyse data to ensure all groups are progressing well and no group is subject to disadvantage

- use all available information to set suitable learning challenges for all, respond to students' diverse needs and overcome any potential barriers to learning
- ensure that the wider school curriculum makes explicit and implicit provision to promote and celebrate diversity
- have high expectations of behaviour which demonstrates respect to others.

### **Leadership, Management and Governance**

Hodge Hill Girls' School is committed to:

- being proactive in promoting good relationships and equality of opportunity across all aspects of school life and the wider community
- encouraging, supporting and enabling all students and staff to reach their potential and make a positive contribution;
- working in partnership with families, the local authority (LA) and the wider community to establish, promote and disseminate inclusive practice and tackle discrimination ensuring that our **Equality and Diversity Policy** is followed.

### **Responsibilities: The Governing Body**

It is the Governing Body's responsibility to:

- ensure that the school complies with equality legislation;
- meet requirements to publish equality schemes;
- ensure that the school's policy and its procedures and strategies are carried out and monitored with appropriate impact assessments informing future plans;
- scrutinize the recording and reporting procedures at least annually
- follow the LA's admissions policy, which is fair and equitable in its treatment of all groups
- monitor attendance and take appropriate action where necessary
- have equal opportunities in staff recruitment and professional development and membership of the Governing Body
- provide information in appropriate, accessible formats
- be involved in dealing with serious breaches of the policy
- be pro-active in recruiting high-quality applicants from underrepresented groups.

### **The Headteacher**

It is the Headteacher's responsibility to:

- implement the policy and its strategies and procedures
- ensure that all staff receive appropriate and relevant continuous professional development
- actively challenge and take appropriate action in any cases of discriminatory practice
- deal with any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with LA guidance
- ensure that all visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the school's equality and diversity policy
- produce a report on progress for governors annually.

## **All Staff**

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- be vigilant in all areas of the school for any type of harassment and bullying
- deal effectively with all incidents from overt name-calling to the more subtle forms of victimisation caused by perceived differences
- identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and in the school's culture
- promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on grounds of race, gender, religion, age and sexual orientation
- promote an inclusive curriculum and whole school ethos which reflects our diverse society
- keep up to date with equality legislation, development and issues by attending relevant training and accessing information from appropriate sources.

## **Community Cohesion**

We are committed to supporting community cohesion by:

- Developing a common vision and sense of belonging
- Developing an appreciation of the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances.
- Creating opportunities for all learners to achieve their potential
- Building strong and positive relationships
- Engagement and extended services
- Learners have a strong voice and opportunities to take responsibility through our Student Council.
- We engage parents through a range of activities, consultation evenings and focus groups. Our pastoral system works with families and staff to improve children's attendance.
- We have strong links with external agencies including Social Services, Educational Psychologist, Pupil and Student Support, the Health Service, Forward thinking Birmingham, Police and a range of other external services e.g.
- Multi- agency working with voluntary agencies and private sector. Building networks and partnerships between services to encourage joint thinking and sharing of skills.
- Integrated support to ensure a personalised service.
- Relevant signposting to other agencies in the community.
- Raising awareness in the community about the range of services on offer at the centre and locally.

## **Breaches of the Policy**

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the Governing Body and LA as required.

## **Policy Planning and Review**

Whilst we have a duty to develop and publish equality schemes in relation to all aspects of equality and disability, we at Hodge Hill Girls' School are considering all aspects of diversity and equality in this comprehensive policy.

**Policy planning and development**

In the planning and development stage of policymaking, we will ensure we have consulted and taken into account stakeholder views. All improvement plans will be designed with an element of impact assessment built in to monitor the success of each activity. There will be a systematic review of the impact of all policies and procedures on equality and diversity to address any areas of inequality. Our target-setting processes ensure appropriate, challenging targets are set in relation to identifiable groups as well as individual students / cohorts.

**Monitoring and Quality Assurance**

Each student's progress is monitored and tracked. The resulting data is analysed in respect of race, ability or additional needs, looked-after status. In addition to monitoring to rule out any potential disadvantage, quality assurance procedures ensure the school meets its duty to positively promote diversity. (E.g., lesson observations record evidence of differentiation and texts and learning materials are reviewed to ensure appropriateness and inclusivity.) The data collected is used to inform further school planning, target-setting and decision-making.