

Equality Information and Objectives (Public Sector Equality Duty) Statement

Policy Information

Document name	Equalities Information and Objectives Statement				
Date approved	February 2024 Update				
Date issued	March 2024				
Date reviewed	January 2025				

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

Action	How will the impact of	Who is responsible	Timeframe	Impact – annual review
	action be monitored?			Review date:
Implement a programme of equality,	Programme of training in	HR and CPD lead	By September 2024	Data collated on staff
diversity, and inclusion training across	the L.E.A.D. Equate			completion across the
the Trust, using National Collage	brochure and evaluations			Trust on an annual basis.
platform, as well as additional	taken.			90% of participants rated
bespoke training, to continue the				the training as 'good'
understanding and help eliminate	Part of the mandatory			
discrimination.	online training for all staff.			
	Data from online training	CPD lead		100% completion rate
	monitored for			
	participation.			
All academies to have Equalities	Compliance checks	Director of Schools	By January 2023	Equality plans published
policy and objectives.	annually			on website and reviewed
				annually
Analyse performance related data to	Termly Quality Assurance	Director of Schools	By September 24	Outcome of analysis
narrow the gap for identified	visits			published on academies
vulnerable group across the Trust.				and Trust website
Ensure the recruitment and	Review processes and	HR	By April 2023	Gather staff feedback that
professional development policies	issue, to all academies,			reflects a culture of
and procedures across the Trust are	any amendments to the			inclusivity and equality of
inclusive and promote equality of	guidance.			opportunity in accessing
opportunity to reflect our				training and promotion
commitment to ensure our workforce				opportunities.
is as diverse as possible.				
Promote and monitor the	Quality Assurance visits	Director of Schools	By July 2024	Academies to publish
involvement of all groups of students,				analysis on websites

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 2024	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.



Cloudside Academy

Equality Policy & Objectives

Policy Information

Document name	Equality Policy
Date approved	July 2024
Date of review	January 2025

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:

- <u>The Equality Act 2010</u>, 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: <u>The Equality Act 2010 and schools</u>, 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 Cara Bowler. They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality every term, 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 Head of School

- 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, Emma Griffiths, for equality will:

- Support the head of school in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives among staff and pupils
- Meet with the equality link governor every term to raise and discuss any issues
- Support the head of school 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 year as part of the National College training program.

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
- SEND Policy

EQUALITY OBJECTIVES PLAN 2022- 2026

Targ	et	Actions	How will the impact of action be monitored? Who is responsible	Timeframe	Impact – Review da		al rev	iew								
1.	Ensure that the Pupil Premium gap in	~ To continue with our rigorous monitoring	Monitoring of progress of PP pupils	Termly review	July 2025	End c	f Key	Stag	e 2 S/	ATS:						
	comparison to non-pupil	systems to ensure	termly,		Cloudside	Rea	ading	Wr	iting	M	aths	S	PAG	Com	bined	
	premium is in	that all	identifying			PP	No PP	PP	No PP	PP	No PP	PP	No PP	8897	No PP	
	line with	vulnerable groups	trends and		ARE GDS	68% 28%	90% 46%	72% 4%	82% 33%	60% 16%	85% 33%	64% 16%	85% 36%	56%	77% 10%	
	National for 2026 and closed by 2027	are tracked and	next steps		dus	20/0	40%	470	3370	10%	3570	10%	30%	470	10%	
			(CT/ SLT)		National	Rea	ading		iting		aths	0.00	PAG	Comb	bined	
		R/W/M ensuring	- 4		ADE	PP C20/	No PP 81%	PP 59%	No PP 78%	PP 61%	No PP 80%	PP	No PP	PP	No PP	
			%	tendance the cademy of pupils	ARE GDS	63%	81%	59%	78%	61%	80%			47% 4%	69% 11%	
		outcomes for all our children. ~ Develop effective provision that	in the academy of PP pupils (CW/ SLT)		Attendan	ce dat	a:		24-20)25	Nati	ional		2025-		National
		meets the needs	(311, 311,					to	date					to da	te	
		of PP students	Pupil		Attendan	ce			9	6.1%		94	.8%		96.09%	94.1%
		~ Implement	premium		PA					9.1%		18	.3%		9.46%	16.2%
		accurate, time	plan to be		Pupil Prei	mium				95%		91	.6%		94.9%	91.5%
		•	reviewed		Non Pupi	l Prem	ium			97%		95	.1%		97%	95%
	provision for PP pupils to reach agreed targets	termly (JM)		Next revie	ew Jul	y 202	26									

2. Target EAL	are met ~ Ensure PP is a regular agenda item for staff meetings/ AGB meetings ~ Review PP funding to ensure that it is used to effect ~ Develop	challenged and are leaders of their on learning (SLT/ subject leaders)	Termly	July 2025:						
pupils so that 80% reach year group expectations or better by 2026.	effective strategy that ensures that the needs of EAL students are met ~Implement accurate, time bound, bespoke provision for EAL pupils to reach agreed targets ~Review EAL pupils work half termly to establish if needs	performance indicators reviewed termly (SLT) Monitoring of progress of EAL pupils termly, identifying trends and next steps through pupil process		Year 5- Tw Year 6- Or	-	ioined the o	cohort this y	year new t	ic year o the country ile a second cl Combined 2/4 1/3 1/4 2/3	hild was

	~Implementation of flash Academy to support EAL children, especially those new to country, are supported to access the learning.	(CT) % attendance in the academy of EAL pupils (SLT and Attendance Officer) Attitudes to learning ie 90% engagement (CT)	e o	Year group 3 4 5 6	Number of pupils 4 3 4 3	Writing 0 0 1/4 0	Reading 1/4 0 1/4 1/3	Maths 1/4 0 0 2/3	Combined
3. Ensure that minority ethnic and faith groups feel secure and valued in our community so that diversity is celebrated and understood through rich	~Review of curriculum in relation to diversity ~Ensure that the reading spine encompasses a diverse range of authors and themes ~Refine the PSHE and RE	Increasing engagement within the community Increase in opportunities to celebrate diversity through the curriculum	Termly	Year 4- Sy Year 5- M Year 6- M Local vica celebration through E Refined the	ons and eve Derbyshire c ne curriculu	Local churdvent assents are celeatering. m so that also underping	ch mbly to the ebrated wit all children ined within	whole sch hin assem engage wit each. Chil	ool. Other religious bly and theme mea th religious scriptur dren look at believi

learning opportunities.	curriculums with the greater inclusion of scripture to enhance children's understanding of faith	and noted in QA visits Increase in visits to places of worship	Investment was made in the library to increase the diversity of authors and texts accessed by the children. End of day reads have been mapped out to increase the diversity that children are exposed to. As part of the Princess Diana Award, Cloudside are pursuing the Inclusion badge. A culture day was held on Oct 22 nd 2025, where children celebrated different cultures from around the world. A range of activities were designed to allow the children to learn about different countries through art, dance, music, geography stories and languages. Parents were invited in to share their culture with the children.
			their culture with the children. Next review July 2026