



THE ALTUS SCHOOL

EQUALITY POLICY

Date Approved: January 2022

Date of Review: January 2026

(Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty published annually)

Background

The Altus School aim to provide a supportive, consistent educational environment which promotes positive mental health alongside academic achievement whilst developing social skills, independence, self-motivation and respect for others.

We have an inclusive philosophy and believe passionately in giving every learner in our school the opportunity to succeed. We believe that by working in partnership with parents and the local education community we can enable pupils to be successful learners and provide pupils with successful reintegration into an appropriate educational provision, equipping them with the skills to achieve in their future.

The legal and local framework for this policy is:

- Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended in 2000)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended in 2005)
- Children Act 2004
- Equality Act 2006
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Duty to Promote Community Cohesion, Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010

Aims and Values

Our school has an inclusive philosophy and we believe passionately in giving every learner the opportunity to succeed. Our ethos is to ensure that we provide an environment where everyone is valued highly and where tolerance, honesty, co-operation and mutual respect for others are fostered.

Our curriculum provides equal opportunity for all pupils to maximise their potential regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, colour, religion or disability. We endeavour to promote positive relationships with parents, management group and members of the wider community.

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 children can flourish
- provide a learning environment where all individuals see themselves reflected and feel a sense of belonging
- prepare children 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 protected characteristics under the law (disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment and pregnancy /maternity)

- 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;
- 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 pupils' 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;
- ensure that all reasonable adjustments are made to ensure equality of opportunity.

Leadership, Management and Governance

The Altus School is committed to:

- being proactive in promoting good relationships and equality of opportunity across all aspects of school life and the wider community and eliminate any discrimination, harassment or discrimination;
- encouraging, supporting and enabling all pupils 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 Policy is followed.

Responsibilities

Management Committee

It is the responsibility of the Management Committee to:

- ensure that the school complies with equality legislation
- meet requirements to publish measurable equality objectives
- ensure that the school's policy and its procedures and strategies are carried out and monitored with appropriate impact assessments informing future plans
- scrutinise 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 Management Group
- 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 under-represented 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;

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 subtler 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 disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, pregnancy /maternity or 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.

Breaches of the Policy

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

Policy planning and development

- In the planning and development stage of policy-making, 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.
- All objectives will be specific and measurable with clear progress evaluation methods.
- There will be a systematic review of the impact of all policies and procedures on equality and diversity to address any areas of inequality e.g. achievement and attainment will be analysed to ensure progress for all, especially in relation to any identified disadvantaged groups; attendance and exclusion data will be reviewed to ensure no over-representation of any one group
- Our target-setting processes ensure appropriate, challenging targets are set in relation to identifiable groups as well as individual pupils/cohorts.

Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- Pupil progress is monitored and tracked. The resulting data is analysed in respect of gender, 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 are reviewed to ensure appropriateness and inclusivity
- The data collected is used to inform further school planning, target-setting and decision-making.
- The impact of school policies on all aspects of access, admission and exclusion data will be considered.

Monitoring Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every four years as part of the policy review cycle of The Altus School and an assessment made of its implementation and effectiveness annually on how The Altus School comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty.