




# MILLOM SCHOOL

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY POLICY

**2021/2022**

| Approved by              |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>             | Mr M Savidge   |
| <b>Position:</b>         | Headteacher  |
| <b>Signature:</b>        |  |
| <b>Date:</b>             | May 2021   |
| <b>Next review date:</b> | September 2022   |

# MILLOM SCHOOL

## Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy

### 1. Introduction

This policy describes the way in which Millom School will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This Act replaced all previous equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act. The policy will be applied to all staff and learners, as well as any volunteers working in the school.

### 2. Access

Employees, learners and volunteers are made aware of the existence of this policy and where it can be accessed.

This policy is reviewed annually.

### 3. Policy Statement

Millom School aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty 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

Millom School will adhere to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 by not discriminating against learners, staff, volunteers or anyone involved in external agencies the organisation may be working with on the grounds of:

- sex, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation.

In addition, there will be no discrimination against:

- pregnant females or new mothers
- staff, learners or volunteers undergoing gender re-assignment
- learners due to the behaviour of their parents and/or siblings

When recruiting staff, health related questions will not be asked until after a job offer is made, and then, only if it is necessary for the role.

Millom School will use the 'Positive Action' clause of the Equality Act 2010, to allow for the setting up of courses specifically for a certain group or groups of students who share a particular protected characteristic.

In addition, Millom School will:

- ensure that the services it provides are accessible to all and endeavour to positively encourage and benefit people from disadvantaged groups
- supply specialist aids and facilities to enable disabled people
- monitor and investigate any issues that arise within the organisation and take appropriate action in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act, part 6, chapter 1, section 86, thus fully supporting any person in the organisation who is faced with prejudice or discrimination
- undertake an annual evaluation process to ensure that the policy is clear, in keeping with current legislation and being adhered to
- treat seriously any breaches of the policy, regarding them as misconduct which may lead to disciplinary proceedings

#### **4. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, 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 a daily basis to the headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The designated member of staff for equality, assistant headteacher (student support), will:

- Support the headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Support the headteacher in identifying any staff training needs, and deliver training as necessary

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

It is expected that every person in the organisation will make a positive contribution to this policy, namely:

- All staff whether paid or voluntary
- All visitors to Millom School
- All learners at Millom School

## **5. Advancing equality of opportunity**

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
- 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
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

## **6. Fostering good relations**

The school 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.
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues.
- Working with our local community.
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

## **7. Equality considerations in decision making**

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups.

The school 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 school trips and activities.

The record is completed by the member of staff organising the activity and is stored electronically with the completed risk assessment.

## **8. Equality Objectives**

### **Objective 1**

To improve outcomes for students with protected characteristics including those who are disadvantaged.

### **Objective 2**

Increase attendance for pupils with protected characteristics and reduce the proportion of these students with persistent absence. This includes disadvantaged students.

### **Objective 3**

Reduce exclusions for those students with protected characteristics, including the disadvantaged.

### **Objective 4**

Investigate training for staff and governors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by September of the next academic year. The aim will be to have one member of the panel trained.

These objectives are within the school progress plan and progress towards them are reviewed termly.

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The information in the sections above, including the objectives, will be reviewed at least every year.

This document will be reviewed at least every 4 years.

This document will be approved by the governing body.

## **Links with other policies**

### **10. This document links to the following policies:**

#### **Accessibility plan**