

Merton Bank Primary School



Equality Policy, Audit and Action Plan for Merton Bank Primary School

Approved by Full Governing Body on _____

To be reviewed on or before _____

Signed _____

Chair of Governors

Signed _____

Headteacher

March 2025

Equality Policy

Merton Bank Primary School is guided by a clear set of objectives and values, one of which is equality. We are committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between different groups within the local community. We are determined to do everything we can to make sure that people are treated fairly and that everyone has access to good quality services.

Unlawful discrimination, which results in unfairness in any aspect of school's employment policies and practices, curriculum or service delivery, will not be accepted under any circumstances.

LEGISLATION AND DUTIES

The following list identifies the equality legislation that affects the school.

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education Act 2002 (Section 78)
- Education and Inspectors Act 2006 (Section 38 (1))
- Equality Act 2010
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011
- Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3)

Human Rights Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998 makes it unlawful for schools to behave in a way that is not compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. Any action taken by a school that interferes with an individual's Human Rights must only be considered if it is a justified and proportionate means of achieving a legitimate end.

Education Act 2002 (Section 78)

Section 78 requires governing bodies for all maintained schools to provide a curriculum that "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life".

Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 38 (1))

Section 38 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that:

"The governing body of a maintained school, shall, in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of the school:

- Promote the wellbeing of pupils at the school, and
- Promote community cohesion.

The Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3)

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Sets out how the School will support children and young people with Special Educational Needs, Social Care Needs and Health Needs. The School will

- Contribute appropriately to the 'local offer' detailing relevant services available for children with disabilities and / or Special Educational Needs.
- Contribute appropriately to a pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan.
- Give due regard to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years; which gives statutory guidance on meeting Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- Produce an annual School Special Educational Needs Information Report.

Equality Act 2010

The General Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010 requires schools, in the exercise of their functions and decisions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Merton Bank Primary School will take the following action as reasonable steps to demonstrate due regard to the General Duty of the Equality Act 2010:

- Produce a written equality policy identifying action to be taken to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups across school activity.
- Ensure hate incidents and hate crime reporting are integrated within the School's Anti Bullying Policy.
- Audit the curriculum, and teaching and learning methods, to ensure they are accessible, inclusive in the language and representation used, promote inclusion and physical activity for disabled pupils, and challenge stereotypes to promote community cohesion and a positive image of a diverse community.
- Make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled staff, pupils and parents are not disadvantaged in employment or the provision of education, and have equality of access to information, facilities and other services at the School.

Equality Act 2010 (Section 10) requires schools to prepare and maintain an accessibility plan in order to

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum
- improve the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school, and
- improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information that is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled

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In order to meet Section 10 of the Equality Act 2010 Merton Bank Primary School will publish the outcome of our Equality, Accessibility and Cohesion Audit and Action Plan on the school's website. In addition, the School takes into account the widening definition of disability within its decisions and functions, and gives due regard to the "Social Model" of disability. This model recognises the barriers caused by the environment and people's attitudes to disability.

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duty) Regulations 2011 requires schools to set measurable equality objectives and to publish information about their performance on equality, so that the public can hold them to account.

In order to meet the Specific Duty, Merton Bank Primary School will

- Publish sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty across its functions annually.
- Prepare and publish equality objectives to demonstrate how the general equality duty will be met.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS UNDER THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

The Equality Act 2010 identifies a list of nine characteristics that are subject to its general duty. They are: Age, Disability, Sex, Gender reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion, Sexual orientation. (However, age, and being married or in a civil partnership do not apply to education provisions.)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the School meets the duty of the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring that they understand the equality implications of all key decisions on policy and practice before they are made.
- Requesting an annual report from the Head Teacher on progress against the school's equality policy, equality objectives and action plan. This report must include a summary of the results of any consultation, equality monitoring and equality impact assessments

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school follows the SEN and Disability Code of Practice
- Ensuring the school produces an annual SEN Information Report
- Producing and maintaining the School's Disability Accessibility Plan
- Producing, implementing, maintaining the School's Equality Policy
- Ensuring all staff know their responsibilities under the Equality Policy, and receive training and support in carrying these out
- Ensuring that hate incidents and hate crime reporting is integrated within the School's Complaint Process and Anti Bullying Policy
- Ensuring tools are in place to show how the school has shown due regard to all protected groups, such as;

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- Equality impact assessment of policies
- Equality monitoring of policies e.g. employment, admissions, pupil attainment, exclusion, hate incidents
- Curriculum Equality Audit
- Completing of the equality, accessibility and cohesion audit and action plan
- Publishing the School's Equality Policy and the outcome of the equality, accessibility and cohesion audit and action plan, on the school website, to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty across its functions; updating this annually
- Using information from the equality, accessibility and cohesion audit to develop equality objectives for the school
- Publishing the equality objectives on the school website; reviewing them annually.
- Reviewing and revising the School's Equality Policy every three years
- Reporting to Governors annually progress against the School's Equality Policy, Equality Objectives and Action Plan. This report must include a summary of the results of any consultation, equality monitoring and equality impact assessments.
- Ensuring the School's Equality Policy is readily available and that the governors, staff, pupils, and their parents/carers and guardians know about it
- Ensuring the School's Equality Policy is followed consistently by all staff and pupils
- Ensuring appropriate and consistent action is taken in cases of discrimination, harassment, victimisation, hate incidents and hate crimes

All staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring they follow the equality policy and procedures, and take up equality training and learning opportunities provided by the school
- Behaving in a dignified manner towards others, and respecting individuals regardless of protected characteristic
- A consistent challenge to unwanted behaviour, including inappropriate use of language.
- Consistent application of all school policies.

Staff with responsibility for areas of the curriculum, are responsible for completing Curriculum Equality Audits for each area, and making appropriate changes to teaching and learning methods to (i) improve accessibility, (ii) advance equality of opportunity, (iii) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and (iv) foster good community relations. (See Appendix 2)

Mrs Rebecca King is responsible overall for dealing with reports of hate-incidents.

Mrs Rebecca King is responsible overall for Children with Special Educational Needs.

Pupils, parents, visitors and contractors are responsible for:

- Ensuring they follow the equality policy and procedures.
- Behaving in a dignified manner towards others, and respecting individuals regardless of protected characteristics.
- A consistent challenge to unwanted behaviour, including inappropriate use of language.

DEFINITIONS OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND VICTIMISATION

Under the law, there are different categories of discrimination, with differences in the legal framework surrounding them. These are:

Direct Discrimination, which occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another on grounds of a personal characteristic.

Discrimination by Association occurs when a pupil is treated less favourably because of their association with another person who has a protected characteristic (other than pregnancy and maternity). This might occur when you treat a pupil less favourably because their sibling, parent, carer or friend has a protected characteristic.

Discrimination arising from perception takes place where education provider behaves as if the person has the characteristic and treats them worse than others as a result. This applies whether the perception is true or not, even if the education provider knows that the person does not have the protected characteristic.

Discrimination because of pregnancy and maternity occurs when women (including a female pupil of any age) are treated less favourably because she is or has been pregnant, has given birth in the last 26 weeks or is breastfeeding a baby who is 26 weeks or younger.

Indirect Discrimination, which occurs when a rule or condition which is applied equally to everyone:

- Can be met by a considerably smaller proportion of people from a particular group.
- Is to the disadvantage of that group.
- Cannot be justified by the aims and importance of the rule condition.

Discrimination arising from a disability, which occurs when an education provider treats the disabled person unfavourably, this treatment is because of something which has come about as a result of the disabled person's disability ('something arising in consequence of the person's disability'), and the education provider cannot show that this treatment is justified as a balanced way of achieving something for a good reason (in legal language 'a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim').

Discrimination arising from disability is different from direct discrimination. Direct discrimination refers to less favourable treatment and requires a comparison to show that a person without the protected characteristic would be treated differently. Discrimination arising from disability refers to unfavourable treatment and does not require a comparison to a non-disabled person.

The failure to make a reasonable adjustment for a disabled person is also discrimination.

Harassment, occurs when unwanted conduct has the purpose or the effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive

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environment for them, on grounds of disability, race or sex. Although the harassment provisions do not explicitly apply to the protected characteristics of gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion or belief; or pregnancy and maternity, in relation to schools, unwanted conduct related to any of these protected characteristics that results in a pupil, governor, staff or visitor being disadvantaged would constitute direct discrimination.

Victimisation: occurs when a person is treated less favourably because they have acted in respect of discrimination, e.g. by bringing a complaint or giving evidence for a colleague.

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND VICTIMISATION WITH REGARD TO PUPILS

We will not discriminate, harass or victimise any child seeking admission, nor with regard to any pupils, or their parents or carers on grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity. This includes discrimination, harassment or victimisation in provision of teaching or allocating the pupil to certain classes, applying different standards of behaviour, dress and appearance, excluding pupils or subjecting them to any other detriment, and conferring benefits, facilities or services.

There are some limited exceptions to this.

- *School curriculum and collective worship are not covered by the requirements on schools not to discriminate on grounds of religion or belief.*
- *With regard to disability, the school will make such reasonable adjustments as are necessary to prevent disabled pupils being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with people who are not disabled, even if it means treating them more favourably.*

EMPLOYMENT

We are committed to a fair and equal pay policy and a free from bias pay structure.

We will not discriminate, harass or victimise in employment unlawfully on grounds of sex, gender reassignment, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age. This includes discrimination, harassment or victimisation in relation to recruitment, terms and conditions, promotions, transfers, dismissals, training and employment practices such as dress codes and disciplinary procedures.

With regard to disability, we will make such reasonable adjustments as are necessary to prevent a disabled person being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with people who are not disabled.

The school will monitor the information as set out below disaggregated by disability, sex, religion, sexual orientation and different racial group.

- The number of staff in post, and
- The number of applicants for employment, training and promotion

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Where agreed, the school will ensure that it sends employment equality monitoring data to the Council's Human Resources Section, in a format specified by the Council.

MONITORING AND ANALYSIS

We will monitor the following policies to ensure that we are meeting equality duties.

- Pupil Admission
- Pupil Exclusion
- Pupil Attainment
- The progress of pupils identified as having special educational needs
- Complaints
- Hate Incidents
- Surveys/consultations

Where appropriate we will use the equality monitoring categories for race, sex, religion and disability used by St.Helens Council's Children and Young Peoples Department. This will ensure consistency of data and enable us to set targets that are comparable with other agencies.

We will disaggregate the results of monitoring by the equality profile (race, sex, religion and disability) to identify if there were any issues or outcomes particular to one specific group. Where relevant, actions will be taken to improve any adverse outcomes for any group. The results of equality monitoring will be reported to the school governors annually. Any identified improvements will be included in the School's Improvement Plan.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

The school's Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on all of our key policies at least once every three years. We will ensure that the Equality Impact Assessment process is updated in line with new legislation.

The Equality Impact Assessment template is based upon the relevant equality duties. For each of the school's functions the Equality Impact Assessment process will cover the following areas:

- The advancement of equality of opportunity
- The elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To foster good relations between different groups of our community
- The promotion of positive attitudes to disability
- The participation by disabled people in public life
- The meeting the need of disabled people, even when that means treating them more favourably than non-disabled people.
- Improving health and wellbeing

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The outcome of equality impact assessments will be reported to the school governors. Any identified improvements will be included in the School's Improvement Plan (see *Appendix 1 for template EIA*).

The local Authority will ensure all template policies in relation to education provision and employment have been informed by an equality impact assessment

CURRICULUM EQUALITY AUDIT

The School's curriculum equality audit tool ensures that each member of teaching staff with responsibility for a curriculum area (i) will promote inclusive and positive images of a diverse community and examples that demonstrate "due regard" to the duty to promote good community relations; (ii) will increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum, (iii) will challenge sex, racial, religious, disablist, ageist and homophobic stereotypes, e.g. prejudices about what people from particular groups should/shouldn't or can/can't do (*see Appendix 2 for template*).

REPORTING PROGRESS

School Governors will monitor the School's Equality Policy and Action Plan. The Head Teacher will produce an annual report for the School Governors on progress against the Equality Policy, Equality Objectives and Action Plan. This report will include the results of consultation, equality monitoring and equality impact assessments.

The Equality Policy and Action Plan will be reviewed at least once in the next three years.

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Equality, Accessibility and Cohesion Audit and Action Plan

This audit will identify and set out how Merton Bank Primary School will work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups within the local community. The outcome of the Equality, Accessibility and Cohesion Audit should be reported to the school governors, and the tasks and priorities identified should be used to develop an Equality Policy Action Plan for the School. School governors should monitor progress against the actions within the Equality Policy Action Plan at least quarterly.

How to use the audit toolkit

To use the tool use the statements as prompts for questions or go through each question and tick the relevant box based on the evidence you gather. The boxes are coded as follows:

A = we are confident about this; work has already been done in this area and is ongoing

B = we haven't done much on this yet, but know what needs to be done and how to go about it

C = we still need to do work on this area and to identify our initial priorities

Use the 'Evidence' column to identify or make cross-reference to your own examples of existing good practice (if you ticked box A) or the case for improvement (if you ticked boxes B or C).

The ultimate aim is to be able to tick the A box for every section, so use the 'Tasks and priorities' column to identify the next step towards this. Once you have identified your priorities, incorporate them into the relevant action plan (This toolkit should be used in conjunction with the action plan in the schools equality policy.). The action plan should spell out in more detail how you plan to achieve the task, who will be responsible and when it will be fully implemented.

Merton Bank Primary School Equality, Accessibility and Cohesion Audit

Last updated: *Governor/Staff Working Party – to be updated during 2023-2024 academic year*

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
Legal compliance						
1. The school has produced, published and maintains an up to date Equality Policy, Equality Objectives and Action Plan.	✓			Governors adopted St Helens Council Equality Policy Spring 2019. Working group met and completed action plan/equality objectives	report back to governors on any future changes	
2. To demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty across its functions, the school has published on the school website its: (i) Equality Policy (ii) the outcome of the equality, accessibility and cohesion audit and action plan, and (iii) Equality Objectives	✓			(i) Equality Policy on school website (ii) accessibility and cohesion audit and action plan completed (iii) equality objectives to be agreed (iv) accessibility plan updated Uploaded copy of Equality Policy, audit and objectives and accessibility plan	3 yearly review, report back to governors on any future changes	
3. Governors receive an annual report on progress against the School's Equality Policy, Equality Objectives and Action Plan.	✓			Compliance governors now elected in Autumn 2019	Governors will have this available on governor hub.	
4. Equality impact assessments are used inform all key decisions on policies, practices, and contract commissioning	✓			St Helens Council Policies are now accompanied with impact assessment sheet. Some school policies have impact assessments attached.	Remind staff that any policy produced or re-adopted should be undertaken in conjunction with an impact assessment sheet. This includes practices and contract commissioning.	Whole school – ongoing
5. The equality implications are explicitly and clearly stated within all key decisions taken by the governing body	✓			Minutes of meetings. Adoption of Council Policies.	GB continue to ensure we comply when making key decisions.	Clerk ongoing
6. Governors are confident that they understand the equality implications of a key decision (i.e. on policy, practices, and contract commissioning); at the time that the decision is taken	✓			Training by Simon Cousins, minutes of meetings.	Ensure new governors attend induction training.	Governors (Chair) Ongoing

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
The context of your school						
7. Training on the Equality Legislation is given to all members of governing body.	✓			Governors are encouraged to undertake LA governor training	New governors to be given training through induction procedures.	Governor Services - ongoing
8. Training on the Equality Legislation is given to all school staff.	✓			Annual production and update of staff induction pack	Ensure induction pack is kept up-to-date and reflects equality legislation	
9. The general duty of the Equality Act 2010 is embedded with the School's "Codes of Conduct" for pupils and staff.	✓			Positive Relationships and Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy Staff handbooks, induction procedures and LA Code of Conduct	Policies updated at least every 3 years including use of impact assessments when updating practices.	Ongoing
10. The duty not to discriminate, harass or victimise as set out in the Equality Act 2010 is explicitly embedded with the Pupil Home/School Agreement.	✓			Home-school agreement adopted and issued as and when required after Autumn 2020	Home school agreement issued to all families	SLT Autumn 2020 reviewed Summer 23
11. Pupils and parents are informed about the School's Equality Policy, and their responsibilities have been made clear	✓			Policy uploaded onto website. Home/School Agreement	Inform parents of availability on website or request hard copy.	Admin
12. The school has systems in place - for staff, parents and pupils - to actively identify, record, manage and monitor the frequency and nature of hate incidents, hate crime, discrimination, bullying or harassment	✓			Safeguarding Lead has open door policy for parents. Records are kept securely and recorded on CPoms. Governor reports detailing number of incidents linked to protected characteristics.	Monitor and update procedures as needed. Share with governors	Whole school ongoing
13. The school's Anti Bullying Policy includes discrimination, harassment, victimisation, hate incidents and hate crimes	✓			Annual Policy Review	Use of impact assessment form when updating policy.	
14. The School maintain an accessibility plan as required by Section 10 of the Equality Act 2010, in order to increase disabled pupils' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the school's curriculum • Access to the physical environment • Access to information 	✓			Accessibility plan adopted and updated. Provisions are made to ensure fair access to the physical environment and the school's curriculum. Use of OT, Translating services, H & S and other professionals	Links to accessibility plan and PEEPs	Ongoing
15. The school is confident that disabled pupils are able to take advantage of the education and	✓			APDRs, PEEPs, support from specialists, SEND Team, additional	Continue to review pupils needs	SEND Team

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
benefits, facilities or services it provides or offers.				internal support from TAs		
16. The school is confident that disabled pupils and their families have equality of access to information which the school produces (e.g. newsletters, guidance, advice, website, etc.)	✓			Newsletters, website, facebook, Parent text facility. Access to the school nurse via drop in clinic. Home/School communication books. Signposting to other service providers. Multi-agency meetings and support. Access to telephone translation service.	Look at using other media for non-reading adults.	Admin and SLT
17. The school has published its SEND Information Report detailing relevant services available for children with disabilities and / or Special Educational Needs	✓			Statutory information page updated. The schools SEN information report. LA local offer (hyperlink)	The schools SEN information Report requires updating	SENDCO reviewed annually
18. The school contributes appropriately to Pupil Education, Health and Care Plan	✓			APDRs, EHCPs reviews. Liaison with professionals	Continue to monitor EHCPs	SEND Team / Health Professionals ongoing
19. The school provides parents, carers and guardians of “pupils with Education, Health and Care Plan” with information on how to access St.Helens Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Services (St.Helens IASS). IASS link is on our school website.	✓			Staff/parent partnerships, access to SEND support/signposting, SEND leaflet/policy, website	Continue to monitor	SEND Team/ ongoing
20. The school’s Self Evaluation Process contains judgments about how well the school promotes equality and cohesion.	✓			Self Evaluation Form (SEF). Monitoring and evaluation. Headteacher reports to governors.	Continue to review the needs of our school community	Ongoing SLT
Monitoring and impact assessment						
21. The school has an accurate, up-to-date profile of its pupils, staff and governors by age, race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, and disability	✓			Pupil data kept on SIMS excluding sexual orientation. Basic data kept on SIMS for staff and govts. Equal Opps monitoring form submitted to HR during interview process.	Governors have access to Governor Hub to update profile.	Ongoing SL/ Office

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
22. The school has a list of policies that they will Equality Impact Assess (EIA), and a schedule for the completion of these EIAs	✓			New and readopted policies will have EIA attached.	See policies and documentation framework for policy list and dates	Whole school ongoing
23. Monitored data is analysed to identify disparities for protected characteristics, and the possible causes.	✓			FFT, ISP, IDSR, Compare Schools - Internal Insight tracking. Follow LA procedures and return all statistical information.	Ensure data is reported regularly to all members of SLT and governors (with an element of challenge)	SLT Ongoing
24. The results of equality monitoring and equality impact assessments inform: policies, INSET priorities, curriculum reviews and school development planning.	✓			Self Review process informs all future policies and practice	Continue to use impact statements	Whole School ongoing
25. The school systematically monitor, review and record the progress of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans or Individual Education Plans (IEP)	✓			APDRs, Termly planning & consultation meetings. Internal inclusion meetings.	Review plans termly (ongoing)	SEND Team ongoing
26. The School has embedded the duties of the Equality Act 2010 within its contract provisions and procurement processes	✓			We take on board local authority policy recommendations.	Ensure that procurement undertaken by the school follows the same rigours.	Admin ongoing
Sense of belonging						
27. There is a strong sense of children's rights and responsibilities in the school regarding equality, diversity, British values and community cohesion	✓			Pupil leadership groups in all aspects of school and subject areas. Play Leaders, Head Pupils. The Rights Respecting Schools award , External reviews - discussions with pupils. Curriculum and PSHE programme, British Values and SMSC overview.	Achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Award – Gold	
28. The school has considered its role in serving the needs of any groups new to the community, and where appropriate has worked with others to meet these needs	✓			Induction prior to start - pastoral and admin teams work closely with community groups and families new to the school both native and immigrants. School seeks professional advice as needed. Extended services information sharing with other professionals. Use of translation tools.	Continue to serve new groups within the community and further develop links to support them.	Pastoral/Admin Teams ongoing

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
				Traveller services.		
29. The school works with parents of children with special educational needs as equal partners in their child's education.	✓			SEND Team meets regularly with parents and support services.	Continue to work as equal partners	SEND Team Ongoing
Teaching learning and curriculum						
30. The curriculum is regularly assessed to ensure that it promotes British values, equality and cohesion for all protected characteristics	✓			Curriculum model and design, PSHE programme and the wider life of the school, including assemblies. Literature and themed events- Black History Month, LGBTQ+, Neurodiversity Month.	Continue to review the curriculum to ensure it reflects protected characteristics.	ongoing
31. The school takes steps to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.	✓			Review of the environment and adaptations made to include all children whenever reasonably possible. Adaptive teaching used to across the curriculum. SEND sports events attended through	Curriculum equality audit to be completed every year.	
32. The school responds to individual needs at all levels through appropriate differentiation of the curriculum.	✓			Some pupils have a bespoke curriculum including physical activity and sensory support, visually impaired. Alternative curriculum. Nurture group, Wellbeing and adaptive teaching.	Continue to review pupils needs and the resources	Class Teachers/ Nurture Leads
33. The school implements appropriate group and individual intervention programmes to address learning difficulties.	✓			Interventions logged on INSIGHT, pupil progress reports.		Class teachers Summer 2024
34. Children who are considered to be new arrivals are welcomed and inducted into the school so that they settle quickly.	✓			Attendance Officer meets with all new arrivals prior to their first day in school to ensure a smooth transition into the Merton Bank Primary School Family. Assess their needs and provide support/toolkits if deemed appropriate. Previous schools are contacted and relevant information received and logged on transfer forms.	Pupil consultation with new started to evaluate the effectiveness of the induction for pupils.	Ongoing

EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR Merton Bank Primary School

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
35. Funds devoted to the needs of children with EAL (English as an additional language) are monitored and evaluated for impact on the identified children	✓			Support /assessment provided by the EAL service and class teachers.	SEND Support Assistant to support EAL pupils and staff during the induction process.	SENDCO and SLT
36. Governors are able to identify examples of reasonable adjustments made at the school	✓			Disabled parking see accessibility plan, handrails in toilets and outside the year6 and year 2 exit. Nursery build has a ramp and chairlift to access.	Ensure any new build or adjustments are compliant with DDA	Ongoing SBM
37. Governors are able to identify examples where different cultures, religions and beliefs are respected and appreciated	✓			Curriculum design, displays around school, children's books, RE curriculum.	Continue to celebrate the different cultures, religions and beliefs around school	Governors ongoing
38. The governing body knows how the school tracks relative underachievement by race, disability and sex, and how successful this has been	✓			Internal Insight tracking system and external data reports. Governing Body minutes, Headteacher Reports.	Continue to present data at least annually	SLT Half termly
39. The school is confident that where possible excluded or self-excluded pupils are successfully re-integrated	✓			Exclusions over time log. HT report SEND reports to governors. Minutes of re-integration meetings.	Continue to support re-integration	SLT ongoing
40. The systems in place to monitor hate incidents, hate crimes, discrimination, bullying or harassment, if used, have been successful	✓			Use of CPOMS, details of incident and tasks demonstrate successful completion.	Continue to support victims of incidents and identify any updates needed for policy review.	Whole School
41. Staff have monitored discipline and exclusion patterns to highlight particular groups and where relevant have discussed these with the governing body	✓			Exclusions reported to governors via termly Headteacher's report. All exclusions are entered on pupil file in SIMS for monitoring purposes.	Continue to monitor and report to governors	SLT ongoing
Equity and Extended Services						
42. The school's Self Evaluation Process contains judgements on the contribution parents and other communities makes to pupils' learning and well being	✓			SEF and SIP, parent questionnaire, termly headteacher's report to governors, social media, tapestry	Continue to consult with parents and the wider community.	
43. The governors know of the impact of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership arrangements with other schools • International links 	✓			SEF and SIP, termly headteacher's report to governors and newsletters. Curriculum design.	Continue to seek further partnerships – subject leaders to lead on this.	Whole School Ongoing

**EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND COHESION AUDIT FOR
Merton Bank Primary School**

Audit Area and Questions	A ✓	B ✓	C ✓	Evidence	Tasks and priorities	By Whom and Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of shared facilities • Opportunities for intercultural activities 						
44. The governors know how funds such as-Pupil Premium have benefited children.	✓			LAC, including post LAC, Service children, Pupil and Sports Premiums reported at least annually includes impact of spending. Minutes of governing body meetings, pupil progress meetings.	Continue to report to Governors	
45. Governors used the criteria in the Strengthening Community section of the Head Teachers National Standards when appointing a new head teacher and/or refer to these in setting objectives in performance management	✓			Successful appraisal of Headteacher	To continue appraisal process	Governor Appraisal Team/ Consultancy

Equality Impact Assessment Template for Schools

Appendix 1

Title of Policy, Decision, Practice or Programme:

Department:

Responsible Officer:

Date Completed:

Date Review Required:

1. **Aims:** Please identify the main aims of the policy, decision or function?

2. **Impact upon different people with different protected characteristics:** It is essential that policies, decisions, practices and programmes advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations within the community, and do not leave the School vulnerable to discrimination claims.

For the purpose of this assessment, the following protected characteristics are to be given due regard when completing the assessment; age, sex, disability, race, gender reassignment, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership. (age, marriage and civil partnership do not apply to school provisions.)

The following seven principles, derived from the duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 should be considered when conducting the EIA.

a. All learners are of equal value

All learners and potential learners are of equal value and should benefit from the Schools policies, practices and programmes.

b. Relevant differences should be recognised

Treating people equally can mean treating them differently. Policies, practices and programmes must not discriminate, but may be differentiated to take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people face.

c. Workforce development

Policies and programmes should benefit all members of the workforce, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development.

d. Positive attitudes and relationships should be fostered

Policies and programmes should promote positive attitudes, good relations and positive interaction between all members of the community

e. Society as a whole should benefit

Policies and programmes should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater cohesion, and greater participation in public life.

f. Current inequalities and barriers should be addressed and reduced

Equality Impact Assessment Template for Schools

In addition to mitigating, avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts, policies and programmes should take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by addressing, reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist.

g. Policy development should involve widespread consultation

People affected by a policy or programme should be consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and the review of existing ones. Such consultation should be both direct and through representative organisations, and should be based on principles of transparency and accountability. Further, it should involve those who in the past have been excluded or disadvantaged, and who continue to face barriers. Examples of groups to consult with could be the School Council/children's leadership teams, Parents, Governors etc.

Examples of possible impacts, please note this is not an exhaustive list:

General Issues Include

- a. Accessibility – Parking, signage, buildings, toilets, lifts, information, opening times etc.
- b. Hate crime – racism, homophobia, transphobia, disablism, and religious bigotry.
- c. Translation and Interpretation arrangements – e.g. British Sign Language users, people who have a low level of literacy, speakers / readers of foreign languages.
- d. Elimination of harassment and discrimination – e.g. challenging inappropriate behaviour, less favourable treatment, and use of language linked to protected characteristics.
- e. Monitoring via consultation, complaints, satisfaction and service access or membership.
- f. Cohesion and good relations between different groups - locally and wider e.g. supporting a local charity and a charity abroad.

Staffing Proposals: It is essential that decisions on staffing issues do not leave the Schools vulnerable to equal pay or discrimination claims. The Schools policy is to ensure equality across all departments within its pay and grading process. This means that decisions must promote consistency in structure, job description / qualifications and pay grading.

Children and Families, Carers and Lone Parents Issues Include

- a. Flexibility in service delivery and employment for parents and people with caring responsibilities.
- b. Child friendly arrangements in service delivery and employment.
- c. Supporting children that are carers.

Sexual Orientation Issues Include

- a. Civil Partners – having the same rules, benefits or requirements as married couples.
- b. Discrimination by association – children who have same sex parents, carers or relatives.

Disability Issues Include

- a. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- b. Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.
- c. Meet the needs of disabled people, even if that means treating disabled people more favourably than non-disabled people.

Equality Impact Assessment Template for Schools

- d. Providing a “local offer” detailing relevant services available for children with disabilities and / or Special Educational Needs.

Please indicate in the table below how the needs of people who share different protected characteristics were identified, and taken into account in relation to the policy, decision or function.

Equality Impact Assessment Template for Schools

'Issue' Column for each Equality Group, consider the following issues and questions. Insert a new row for each new issue

'How will this be taken into account?' Column evidence of how each issue is taken into account.

'Action' Column for actions that address any issue that is relevant but you are unable to evidence how they are taken into account

Equality Group	Issue	How will this be taken into account?	Action	Date to be actioned by
General Issues				
Age				
Disability, SEN and Carers				
Sex				
Human Rights				
Gender Reassignment				
Race (Ethnicity)				
Marriage and Civil Partnership				
Pregnancy and maternity				
Religion or Belief				
Sexual Orientation				
Community Cohesion				

Equality Impact Assessment Template for Schools

Equality Group	Issue	How will this be taken into account?	Action	Date to be actioned by
Promoting Health				

3. Publishing the results of the assessment:

The Equality Impact Assessment must be used to inform key decisions on policy and practice. The equality implications must be visible to Governors (or the decision maker), when they make decisions, please attach the Equality Impact Assessment within the Decision documentation.

Curriculum Equality Audit Template And Guidance

Appendix 2

Curriculum Equality Audit for Schools

Schools have a duty under equality legislation to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups within the local community within the teaching and learning curriculum. Each teacher should carry out an equality and cohesion assessment of their curriculum, to ensure:

- There is equality of opportunity to access the curriculum through teaching and learning
- That they are inclusive in the language and representation used
- Promote inclusion and physical activity for disabled pupils
- Challenge stereotypes, such as sex segregation of subjects (design and technology, home economics, sciences etc)
- Promote community cohesion and a positive image of a diverse community

This checklist prompts questions that can help teachers identify how they could build equalities into the curriculum. Teachers can simply consider the questions below before developing or reviewing their curriculum and lesson planning process. They can use the questions to think about ways quality and cohesion can be built into the teaching and learning programme.

This is not an exhaustive list

Enabling the learner to:	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	By Whom and Date
1. Appreciate of the needs of others, insight into the lives of people from different backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies • Values • Literature • World Wise – key figures, current affairs • PSHE curriculum • Issues relating to diversity and other communities are reflected in all aspects of our curriculum. • Staff training and professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular team around the child meetings. Rigorous and robust monitoring and communication systems in place. • Strong communication with wider staff to raise awareness of individual needs and circumstances which may 	Safeguarding Lead. TS Lead. Subject leaders Annual review

Curriculum Equality Audit Template And Guidance

Enabling the learner to:	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	By Whom and Date
	relating to specific needs of our cohort.	<p>impact on pupils/families within the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject leaders review curriculum content termly. 	
2. Respect different points of view, recognising and respecting different viewpoints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core values and half termly values Children's leadership teams, Headpupils Pupil voice - Worry boxes/monsters Picture news and world wise sessions focusing on current affairs. Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum is reviewed regularly and adapted accordingly. Opportunities for debate, discussion and questioning is promoted throughout school life – enrichment and awareness events. 	<p>Subject leaders Safeguarding lead TS Curriculum Lead. SMSC/RSHE lead SLT/HT Ongoing</p>
3. Experience and celebrate cultural diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies British Values Different faiths/cultures celebrated through learning RE curriculum covers different faiths. Enrichment and awareness events. Literature reflects different cultures. Artist collaboration. Curriculum content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal development plan sets specific actions in place. Enrichment overview is in place and updated termly. Investment in literature that promotes and celebrates diversity. 	<p>Safeguarding lead TS Curriculum Lead. SMSC/RSHE lead SLT/HT Ongoing</p>
4. Recognise commonalities shared by people from diverse and different backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing religions – faith studies Assemblies World wise debates 		<p>Safeguarding lead TS Curriculum Lead. SMSC/RSHE lead SLT/HT Ongoing</p>

Curriculum Equality Audit Template And Guidance

Enabling the learner to:	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	By Whom and Date
5. Appreciate culture in St Helens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local History links • Community projects • Enterprise Projects • KS1/2 topics • Ambassadors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community links are detailed on curriculum planning. • Seek opportunities to collaborate with other. • Projects - Artist Gill Taylor, STEM 	Safeguarding lead TS Curriculum Lead. SMSC/RSHE lead SLT/HT Ongoing
6. Recognise and challenge abuses, discrimination and injustice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy • Pastoral support • Nurture provision • Assemblies/workshops/Events/World Wise- anti bullying week, Black History Month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and review the implementation of the Positive Relationships and Behaviour policy. • Promote discussion and debate . • Current affairs – picture news, World Wise, British Values. 	Safeguarding lead TS Curriculum Lead. SMSC/RSHE lead SLT/HT Ongoing

Using the teaching programme to promote	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	
1. Accessible lessons: information, signage, class times, school trips, course work examples, etc	*School trips: -Other cultures -Visual signage -Pictorial signage * Multicultural Art *Religious work – Values *Discuss author roots *Visible timetables		
2. The reporting of Hate Incidents; racism, disablism, homophobia, transphobia, religious bigotry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sims and CPOMs logs • Awareness events- anti bullying week. • PSHE Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding lead and Headteacher 	
3. The appropriate use of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation apps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depict other languages in the 	Admin and SLT

Curriculum Equality Audit Template And Guidance

Using the teaching programme to promote	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	
translation and interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAL and refuges support services • Visual and pictorial signage 	<p>school environment and on the school website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase EAL dual language books and resources. 	
4. Positive images of a diverse community: locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature • Arts Week • Local History topics • Events/awareness days: Chinese New Year/ holocaust/VE Day, World Book Day, Black Lives Matter, etc • Links with other schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the school environment and classroom literature. 	Subject leaders and SLT
5. Can you promote opportunities for the interaction between groups that do not usually get to mix? For example, can you promote activity between pupils and their equivalents with one of our twin towns? (Chalon, France and Stuttgart, Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography/History links • Assemblies • Different faiths/cultures • World events – global goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrichment and enrichment overview updated with opps. 	Class teacher/subject leaders and HT
6. The challenging of sex, racial, religious, disablist, ageist and homophobic stereotypes i.e. improving attitudes and values by challenging myths and prejudices about what people from particular groups should or shouldn't or can and can't do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Christmas Child • Traveller Services • Assemblies • Different faiths/cultures • British Values • Literature • PSHE curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject monitoring • T&L Monitoring • 	All staff

Curriculum Equality Audit Template And Guidance

Using the teaching programme to promote	How is (or could) this taken into account	Actions	
7. An awareness of the support needs for children that are carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral support • Young carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend relevant training and disseminate to staff. 	Safeguarding lead
8. A positive image of Civil Partners – having the same rules, benefits or requirements as married couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone wall • LGBT+ • Curriculum planning • Assemblies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ inclusive environment • Whole school training 	Safeguarding lead
9. A recognition that people can suffer discrimination by association – e.g. children who have same sex parents, carers or relatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone wall • LGBT+ • Curriculum planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ inclusive environment • Whole school training • RSE policy (Early Adopters) 	HT SLT Safeguarding lead
10. Positive images and a positive attitude towards disabled people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School environment • Curriculum planning • We all deserve to fly – big dreams and aspirations • World wise /picture news 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors • Books/awareness events 	HT/SLT Safeguarding Lead