

# Beverley High School



## Equality Policy (including Accessibility Plan)



<b>Effective Date</b>	September 2021
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	
<b>Date Due for Review</b>	September 2024
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## Our Vision

“Beverley High School will develop young people into educated globally competent citizens skilled to meet the diverse challenges of the twenty- first century.”

In our school we

- promote and model high standards of behaviour and encourage our pupils to develop a sense of social responsibility;
- actively promote an understanding of spiritual and moral issues and promote a common ethos with shared values, based on tolerance and respect;
- seek to prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life;
- celebrate diversity and welcome the contributions which different groups and individuals make to the community;
- strive to eliminate all forms of discrimination and harassment;
- are dedicated to making the best possible provision for all pupils regardless of disability, ethnicity, culture, religious belief, national origin or status, gender or sexual orientation, and value our staff for their ability and potential to help us achieve this.
- ensure that all pupils and staff understand what constitutes appropriate behaviour and acceptable use of language;
- encourage all pupils to develop a sense of personal and cultural identity, with a confidence and openness to change that allows them to be receptive and respectful with regard to others;
- encourage all pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need in order to participate in a multi-cultural society;
- have clear procedures for dealing quickly with incidents of discrimination and harassment;
- seek the views of all groups affected by the policies and work of our school, to ensure community inclusion and develop positive attitudes towards diversity;
- work to promote good relationships between all groups, and positive attitudes towards disabled people, people from different ethnic or cultural groups or faith backgrounds and people of different gender or sexual orientation.
- recognise our role in promoting community cohesion, and actively encourage the participation in public life of all learners in our school;
- believe that it is our duty to address issues of ‘how we live together’ and ‘dealing with difference’. By valuing and championing diversity, we lead the way in good practice and set an example for others to join us;
- promote justice, equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all and thereby allow all members of our school community, to achieve the level of success and self respect which they deserve.

## The Equality Act 2010

The **Equality Act 2010** replaced all existing equality legislation and consolidated many acts such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Act and the Sex Discrimination Act. It legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society and sets out the nine characteristics which are protected:

### Protected Characteristics

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Race
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex (gender)
- Sexual orientation

It is therefore, unlawful for Beverley High School to discriminate against a person, pupil, parent (this includes adoptive, step, foster or anyone who has parental responsibility) or, staff member (teaching and non-teaching) because they have one or more of the characteristics mentioned above. This includes discriminating against pupils in relation to admissions, the way education is provided to pupils, the way pupils are able to access any benefit, facility or service, excluding a pupil, or subjecting them to any other detriment.

Age is a protected characteristic in relation to employment and the provision of goods and services, however, this does not apply to pupils. We are able to admit and organise children in age groups and treat pupils in ways appropriate to their age and stage of development.

### Definitions

Beverley High School recognises the different types of **discrimination, harassment and victimisation** as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and are therefore responsible for eliminating the following:

**Direct discrimination** – Treating someone less favourably because they have a protected characteristic

**Discrimination by perception** – Treating someone less favourably because it is believed that they have a protected characteristic, when in fact, they do not

**Discrimination by association** – Treating someone less favourably because they are associated with someone with a protected characteristic

**Indirect discrimination** – When a practice, policy or rule, which is applied to everyone in the same way, has a worse effect on some people than others i.e. it puts particular people at a disadvantage

**Harassment** – Unwanted behaviour which a person finds offensive, or which makes them feel intimidated or humiliated is unlawful under the Act if it is connected to any of the protected characteristics

**Victimisation** – Someone is treated badly because they have complained about discrimination or helped someone who has been the victim of discrimination

## Reasonable Adjustments

**Disability** is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

Beverley High School is aware of the need to make **reasonable adjustments** in order to remove barriers faced by people with disabilities. This may involve treating disabled pupils or staff more favourably and taking steps to avoid the substantial disadvantage to a disabled person caused by a provision, criterion or practice applied by or on behalf of the school, or by the absence of an auxiliary aid or service.

In the Equality Act 2010, there are three elements to the reasonable adjustments duty that relate to: Provisions, Criteria and Practices, Auxiliary Aids and Services, and also, Physical Features. The physical features element does not apply to schools in relation to disabled pupils; instead we have a duty to plan better access for disabled pupils generally in relation to the physical environment of the school.

Beverley High School will take positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils can fully participate in the education provided by the school, and that they can enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services that the school provides for pupils.

There are various factors to be taken into account when considering reasonable adjustments and these include such things as the resources of the school, the financial cost of making the adjustment, assessing the extent to which the adjustment would be effective in overcoming the disadvantage, the practicability of the adjustment, health and safety requirements, the need to maintain academic, musical, sporting and other standards, the effect of the disability on the individual and, the extent to which special educational provision will be provided to the disabled pupil under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

There is a significant overlap between those pupils who are disabled and those who have Special Educational Needs (SEN). Many disabled pupils may receive support in school through the SEN framework and in some cases, the substantial disadvantage that they experience may be overcome by support received under the SEN framework and therefore, there will be no obligation for the school or local authority to make reasonable adjustments. However, in other cases, a disabled pupil may need reasonable adjustments to be made in addition to the special educational provision that they are receiving.

## Accessibility Plan

Beverley High School aims to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school and therefore, an **Accessibility Plan** has been developed to ensure that:

- The extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum is increased
- The physical environment of the school is improved to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and the services provided
- The availability of accessible information to disabled pupils is improved.

The plan is also structured to support the school's Equality Objectives and has taken into consideration findings from an Accessibility Audit, which was carried out March 2022 by members of staff. This Accessibility Audit will be undertaken on an annual basis and the Accessibility Plan will be reviewed at least every three years. OFSTED inspections may look at the Accessibility Plan and its implementation as part of their review.

The Accessibility Plan can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## The Public Sector Equality Duty

Following the introduction of the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), came into force in April 2011. The PSED sets out the requirements for all public bodies when carrying out their day to day work and has two main parts:

### The 'general' equality duty

The general duty requires Beverley High School to have 'due regard', or think about the need to:

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act**
- **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**

**All staff are responsible for having due regard for the three general equality aims.**

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

Details of how Beverley High School is working with due regard to the general equality duty aims are outlined in **Appendix 2**.

### The 'specific duties'

The 'specific duties' require Beverley High School to do the following:

- Publish information annually to show compliance with the general equality duty.
- Prepare and publish one or more specific and measurable equality objectives at least once every four years and publish an update on progress towards these objectives annually.

## Equality Objectives 2022-2026

As stated above, Beverley High School is required to set specific and measurable equality objectives. The development of these objectives has taken into account pupil data, attainment levels, evidence of any equality issues across all of our functions, issues that may be affecting people with protected characteristics and also acknowledged the three aims of the 'general' equality duty. These objectives have been agreed with the Governing Body, of whom Mr J Dunning is the Chair. Our objectives are set out below:

<b>1</b>	Prepare the school community for living in a diverse and more equal world
<b>2</b>	Develop the equality knowledge and skills of staff through relevant training
<b>3</b>	To support and encourage SEND students to ensure they are as fully able as possible to participate in the school's activities

Progress against these objectives will be reported on annually (please refer to **Appendix 2**).

## Publishing Equality Information

The specific duties aim to promote transparency in schools and to increase accountability to parents, carers and regulators. The publication of non-confidential equality-related data and information about Beverley High School and its pupils will help parents to understand what we are doing to eliminate any potential discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Published information will also be a resource for decision-makers within the school. Details of equality related information that we have published and the location of this data is outlined in the table below:

Document/Data	Published or N/A	Where is it published?
Equality Objectives	✓	School website (included in Equality Policy)
Annual update towards the equality duty and equality objectives	✓	School website (included in Equality Policy)
Accessibility Plan (including annual progress update)	✓	School website (included in Equality Policy)
Non-confidential equality data regarding pupil population at the school (gender, race, disabilities, Free School Meals, Children Looked After, language, SEN)	✓	DfE published tables
School performance data e.g. attainment, absence/attendance	N/A	
Governing body minutes	No	Available in school
Anti-bullying policy	✓	Website
School development plan	No	
Equality training materials	No	
Parent and pupil surveys	No	
Non-confidential equality data regarding staff (if employ more than 150 people)	No	



## School Responsibilities

The Head Teacher/Head of Centres is responsible for:

- Providing accurate and appropriate information to the Governing Body to enable them to publish and demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Making sure that steps are taken to address the school's stated Equality Objectives
- Ensuring that equality and accessibility plans are readily available and that the Governors, staff, pupils, parents and guardians know about them
- Providing regular information for staff and Governors about progress against the stated Equality Objectives and accessibility plan
- Making sure that all staff understand their responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty and receive training and support to carry these out
- Ensuring that all policies and strategies when being developed, implemented and reviewed do not create inequality and have a positive impact by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist
- Taking appropriate action in cases of discrimination, harassment and victimisation

**All staff are responsible for promoting equality in the workplace, adhering to the regulations of the Equality Act 2010 and following the Beverley High School Equality Policy.**

## References

*Department of Education, Equality Act 2010, Advice for School Leaders, School Staff, Governing Bodies and Local Authorities, September 2012*

*Equality & Human Rights Commission, Public Sector Equality Duty Guidance for Schools in England, 2014*

*Equality & Human Rights Commission, Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Pupils Guidance for Schools in England, 2015*

*GEO, Equality Act 2010: Specific Duties to Support the Equality Duty. What do I need to know? A Quick Start Guide for Public Sector Organisations, 2011, p6*

## Appendix 1: Beverley High School Accessibility Plan 2022-2025

An Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in line with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10 (relating to Disability) of the Equality Act 2010. The Accessibility Plan has been developed to cover the three year period until March 2025 and is based on the findings of the recently completed Accessibility Audit.

The Accessibility Audit will be completed by the school every year in order to inform the development or revision of the Accessibility Plan and School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan on an annual basis.

It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans.

**The plan shows the ways in which Beverley High School intends, over time, to achieve the following three aims:**

- *Improve access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.*
- *Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are other pupils. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.*
- *Improve and make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.*

**The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. It should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents: Behaviour Management Policy, Curriculum Policies, Emergency Plan, Health & Safety Policy, School Improvement Plan, Special Educational Needs Policy and the Teaching and Learning Policy.**

### Accessibility Plan 2022-2025

#### Aim 1 - Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum

Outcome	Action	Timescale	Responsible person	Resource implication costs/source of funding	Progress/evaluation
Reasonable adjustments to curriculum	Meet with appropriate agencies and make reasonable adjustments, as necessary, as they arise to enable access to the full curriculum.	Ongoing	SLT	Unknown	As required
Improve Access to the Curriculum	In Class support, as required.  Literacy and Numeracy intervention where appropriate.  Lift access to technology block.	July 2021	SLT	Various	As required

#### Aim 2 - Improve the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided

Outcome	Action	Timescale	Responsible person	Resource implication costs/source of funding	Progress/evaluation
Improve access to curriculum during the pandemic (Covid-19)	Additional IT and communication resources purchased  Additional textbooks purchased. Consider Covid recovery and additional resources/teaching that may be required. Tutor Led programme commenced Spring 2022.	Summer 22	SLT /ICT manager	£20K	Additional resources purchased to give access to all to the curriculum, particularly for those shielding/lockdown.
Improve disabled parking	Re-paint the disabled bay markings in the car park.	Summer 2021	Site manager	£300	TBA for Summer 2021.

Improve reception area	Source and purchase an appropriate chair, with arm rests for people who have difficulty standing.  Look into fitting a hearing loop in reception.	July 2022	Business manager	£400	Chair still to be bought and purchased. As loop has not been requested and there are other means of communicating for the moment and benefit .v. cost has resulted in the decision to not yet invest in hearing loop.
Improve classroom lighting	Continue to replace lighting throughout the school to ensure LED lit classrooms.	July 2022	Site manager/Business manager	Various	Many more have been updated since this report was last reviewed. There was an update in Spring 2022 The remaining are ongoing on a rolling place of replacement.
Improve play areas	Painted yellow edges to aid visibility need to be refreshed.	2022/23	Site Manager Business manager	Minimal	This took place in Summer 2019 and will be further assessed regularly.
The path installed in summer 2020 leading from LRC to the art /humanities block continues to be useful in giving ease of access.	This path installed across the grassed area to give greater accessibility for people with disabilities. This has enabled one current student to access the art and humanities blocks more easily and will improve quality of access and efficiency.	Spring 2020	Site Manager, Business Manager, LA and local contractor	£4000	Completed in summer 2020 the improved access has had a significant impact in improving access.

Level the floor entrance to the 'White House' Music Room and install a ramp	This work was completed in summer 2020.	Spring 2020	Site Manager, Business Manager LA and local contractor	£1700	Completed in Summer 2020. This has had a significant impact on improved access.
<b>Aim 3 - Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils</b>					
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>Resource implication costs/source of funding</b>	<b>Progress/evaluation</b>
Look at alternative ways of providing information e.g. audio versions, larger print	Advice from professionals and specialists of identified disabilities.	July 2022	SLT	Unknown	Ongoing.

## Appendix 2: Beverley High School's Annual Update on Progress towards the Equality Duty and the Equality Objectives (2021-22)

### Compliance with the Equality Duty

As set out within the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), all public sector bodies are subject to the three aims of the 'general' equality duty, when exercising their functions, and must have due regard to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Further to the general duties of the PSED, as above, public bodies are subject to 'specific duties'. One of which, is to publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty and how the three aims of the general equality duty have been considered as part of the decision-making process.

Please see the table below which shows how Beverley High School has paid due regard to the three aims:

General Equality Duty Aims	Examples/Evidence for 2021-22
<p><b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act</b></p>	<p>A behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy are in place.</p> <p>All incidents of victimisation, discrimination, harassment and bullying are recorded and monitored.</p>
<p><b>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</b></p>	<p>Consideration of equality implications have been made at the time that decisions and policy are made, and not as an afterthought.</p> <p>Please see our range of policies.</p> <p>Evidenced in participation and engagement e.g. school visits.</p> <p>There have been adaptations to the environment e.g. toilet facilities.</p>
<p><b>Foster good relations across all characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</b></p>	<p>Gender free availability training has taken place (LGBTQ).</p>

Beverley High School collect relating to pupils, or any other people who are affected by the schools policies and practices, who share a protected characteristic. This is used as a resource for decision-makers within the school.

Non-confidential equality-related data and information about Beverley High School and our pupils, is published in order to help parents understand what we are doing towards the three aims (*please refer to the 'Publishing Equality Information' section of the policy for details of the information the school has and where it is published*).

## Progress against the Equality Objectives

The other 'specific' duty is to develop and publish measurable equality objectives that are needed to further the three aims of the 'general' equality duty and to publish an update on progress towards these on an annual basis. The table below provides an update on Beverley High School's equality objectives for 2021-22.

Equality Objective	Progress in the last school year 2021-22
<p><b>Prepare the school community for living in a diverse and more equal world</b></p>	<p>This is now embedded into school practice and is evident in our super-curriculum materials, assemblies and all we do in school. Discrimination is challenged and reported.</p>
<p><b>Develop the equality knowledge and skills of staff through relevant training</b></p>	<p>LGTBQ training.</p> <p>Training for support for students with specific disabilities, as required.</p>
<p><b>To support and encourage SEND students to ensure they are as fully able as possible to participate in the school's activities</b></p>	<p>Environments assessed and appropriate adjustments have been made.</p>