



Equality Policy

Due to the school's commitment to GDPR and safeguarding all correspondence regarding school policy and procedures needs to be through or on the school office email address office@holgateprimary.org

At the schools within our collaboration, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, and as such, the schools within our collaboration are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils including protection against radicalisation. We therefore aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. Our core purpose, values and ethos is embodied in our mission that everyone takes:

P= personal
R= responsibility
I = in
D= delivering
E= excellence

Monitor and Review

As a minimum, we will review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile at least every three years. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement planning and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.

Reviewed and Approved by: The Full Governing Body

Date: Autumn 2025

Date of Next Review: Autumn 2026 (or as per legislative changes or updates in best practice guidance)

Reviewers: Nicola Davies, Sam Sheridan and Chair of Governors

Signed:  Date: 05/01/2026

EQUALITY STATEMENT

Legal Duties

At Holgate Primary School we welcome our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#). The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination,
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

We understand the principal of the act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity. Protected characteristics make up the part of a person's identity that makes them who they are, such aspects or characteristics are protected from discrimination. Everyone in Britain is protected from unlawful behaviour by the Act.

The protected characteristics are as follows:

- age
- disability
- race
- sex
- gender reassignment
- maternity and pregnancy
- religion and belief
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership (for employees)

We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights' standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998. In developing our policy, we have therefore also taken them into consideration.

To meet our general duties, listed above, the law requires us to carry out some specific duties to demonstrate how we meet the general duties.

These are to:

- Publish Equality Information – to demonstrate compliance with the general duty across its functions (**We will not publish any information that can specifically identify any individual**)
- Prepare and publish equality objectives which we will review on an annual basis
- Consult stakeholder representatives in the development of our equality objectives and report on progress against our objectives on an annual basis

To do this effectively we will collect data related to some of the protected characteristics above and analyse this data to determine our focus for our equality objectives. The data will be assessed across our core provisions as a school, but we will also analyse available data relating to the context of our local community and demographic information. In relation to school provision, we will pay particular attention to the following functions:

- Admissions
- Attendance
- Attainment
- Exclusions
- Prejudice-related incidents
- Curriculum
- Complaints/compliments

Our objectives will detail how we will ensure equality is applied to the services listed above, however where we find evidence that other functions have a significant impact on any group, we will include work in this area.

We also recognise that our work on equality is central to the successful promotion of fundamental British values, especially in relation to the values of respect and tolerance and the rule of law. We will therefore ensure that our curriculum helps to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We will work proactively to address all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including derogatory and discriminatory language. We will mainly do this through the delivery of our statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education and PSHE Curriculum. We will also utilise all other subject areas to foster positive relations and to ensure that we consciously cultivate opportunities to challenge stereotypes and support positive identity development for all our pupils. We will regularly audit our resources, displays, lesson content, and assessment processes to ensure that they meet the needs of all groups. We will scrutinise outcomes across a range of measures, analyse the results and address any identified areas of concern.

In endeavouring to fulfil our legal duties, we will:

- Recognise and respect diversity
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of belonging
- Observe good equalities' practice, including staff recruitment, retention, and development
- Aim to identify, reduce, and remove existing inequalities and barriers
- Consult and involve stakeholders
- Regularly review our progress

Definitions

Discrimination is unfair treatment towards another or a group of individuals who share one or some of the protected characteristics.

Direct Discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than others because of a protected characteristic.

Discrimination by Association occurs when someone is treated less favourably because someone they are associated with, such as a friend, family member or carer, has a protected characteristic.

Direct Discrimination by Perception occurs when someone is treated less favourably because someone believes they have a protected characteristic, regardless of whether their perception is correct or not.

Indirect discrimination can be more difficult to identify and sometimes is not intended. It can occur due to a lack of understanding of the law or a genuine error of judgement about an individual. For example, a policy that is applied to all individuals equally may inadvertently disadvantage individuals or groups who have a protected characteristic. It is therefore essential that all aspects of school life and policies are scrutinised carefully to avoid any unlawful provision, criterion, or practice.

Victimisation occurs when an individual has either raised a complaint or grievance that they have been discriminated against based on having a protected characteristic; or has supported someone who has raised a complaint or grievance.

Harassment is any form of unwanted behaviour intended to violate an individual's dignity or create an environment which may be described as hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive. The victim will be subject to this harassment based on a protected characteristic or the perception that they have a protected characteristic, or because they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic.

Prejudice can be conscious or unconscious and involves stereotypes, prejudgements, and beliefs (which are usually negative) about an individual, or group of people, based on a protected characteristic.

Roles and Responsibilities

We believe that promoting Equality is the whole school's responsibility.

School Community	Responsibility
Governing Body	Involve and engage the whole school community in identifying and understanding equality barriers and in the setting of objectives to address these. Monitor progress towards achieving equality objectives. Publish data and publish equality objectives. Ensure that staff have access to appropriate training and resources.
Head Teacher / Principal	As above including: Promote key messages to staff, parents, and pupils about equality and what is expected of them and can be expected from the school in carrying out its day-to-day duties. Ensure that all in the school community receive adequate training to meet the need of delivering equality, including pupil awareness. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.
Senior Management Team	To support the Head / Principal as above Ensure fair treatment and access to services and opportunities. Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.
Teaching Staff	Help in delivering the right outcomes for pupils. Uphold the commitment made to pupils and parents/carers on how they can be expected to be treated. Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum. Record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.

School Community	Responsibility
Non -Teaching Staff	Support the school and the governing body in delivering a fair and equitable service to all stakeholders. Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher/Principal on how pupils and parents/carers can be expected to be treated. Support colleagues within the school community. Record, report and respond appropriately to prejudice-related incidents.
Parents/Carers	Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the governing body of actions that can be taken to eradicate these. Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment given to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all. Uphold the commitment made by the Senior Team on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated.
Pupils	Support the school to achieve the commitment made to tackling inequality. Uphold the commitment made by the Head Teacher on how pupils and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated. Report prejudice-based incidents to a trusted adult.
Local Community Members	Take an active part in identifying barriers for the school community and in informing the governing body of actions that can be taken to eradicate these Take an active role in supporting and challenging the school to achieve the commitment made to the school community in tackling inequality and achieving equality of opportunity for all.

We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Equality Policy and our published equality information and equality objectives by publishing them on the school's website.

Preventing and Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

We define prejudice-based incidents/bullying in the following way:

Prejudice-related incidents/bullying – derogatory and discriminatory language and behaviour including that which is racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disablist in nature. This language and behaviour may be directed towards people because of their race/ethnicity/nationality; because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans, or are perceived to be, or have a parent/carer, sibling, or friend who is, or because they have a learning or physical disability. It may include misogyny or misandry and be sexist in nature. Such language and behaviour are generally used to refer to something or someone as inferior.

At Holgate Primary School we encourage open discussions around differences between people, we actively challenge prejudice, and we celebrate diversity. This school is opposed to all forms of prejudice, and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice- related discrimination may fair less well in the education system. We recognise that prejudice-based bullying is a form of child-on-child abuse and is therefore a safeguarding concern, as outlined in [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#). We adopt a contextual safeguarding, trauma-informed and strengths-based approach to bullying and child-on-child abuse. We are committed to working with families and outside agencies to proactively prevent incidents and to create an environment in which all members of our

school community feel welcomed, accepted, and safe. We believe every member of our community should be treated with respect and should not be subjected to prejudice or discrimination in any form. This includes staff, parents/carers, governors/trustees, and visitors to our school.

We provide both our pupils and staff with an awareness of the impact of prejudice to prevent any incidents. We will endeavour to proactively tackle all forms of prejudice by ensuring our curriculum is representative of all sections of society and the contributions made by people with different characteristics are consciously embedded across all subjects. In doing so, we will challenge stereotypes and work towards inclusivity and identity-safe classrooms where everyone feels validated, accepted, safe and a sense of belonging. If incidents still occur, we will address them immediately ensuring that appropriate levels of support are provided to those affected; that we thoroughly investigate all reports/allegations; and that we will apply appropriate sanctions and address offending behaviours through a programme of education. All adults in our school community are expected to comply with the school's Codes of Conduct. Any allegations made against staff will be investigated in line with our policies and procedures relating to staff conduct and behaviour. Any staff member/parent/carer, governor/trustee or visitor to the school, who is subjected to prejudice-based abuse can also expect to have their complaint thoroughly investigated and will be supported in accordance with their wishes.

We review our practice following each incident including what more we might do to prevent further incidents. We recognise that we must not become complacent and will regularly evaluate satisfaction levels in respect of how we have responded to any reports or concerns raised.

Children (including bystanders)

It is important to understand that a victim may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse verbally. Children can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. We recognise that in some instances another child may report on another child's behalf. All children will know how to report concerns or incidents involving prejudice or discrimination and understand what it means to be an 'upstander' for someone else.

We ask that all children report any concerning behaviour to a member of school staff – this can be any member of teaching or non-teaching staff, including a class teacher, a TA, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, a lunchtime supervisor, or a member of the office team. We talk about trusted adults regularly in class and in assemblies to remind our children of who they can report concerns to. The member of staff will listen to the child and make an initial note of their concerns, they will then discuss next steps with them and reassure them that they will be supported. In line with the statutory guidance provided in [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#), we will never promise a child that we will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may not be in the best interests of the child. The member of staff will make a formal record of the concern/report on the school's recording system MyConcern and other relevant members of staff will be alerted. The member of staff will directly alert the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead if the report is deemed urgent or if a child is considered at risk.

We understand that some children may find it difficult to tell a member of staff about their concerns verbally, we therefore have additional reporting mechanisms in place. Our school has a worry monster in each classroom where the child can put their name/a brief note about their concerns/draw a picture of their concern – these worry monsters are introduced to the children at the start of the year and children are reminded of them regularly.

Parents/carers

We understand that parents and carers may well struggle to cope with making or receiving a report that their child has been the victim of or is an alleged perpetrator of a prejudice-based incident.

We ask that if parents/carers have concerns about their child experiencing or allegedly perpetrating any such incident, that they contact one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads either in person, via a telephone call or via an email to the school office to explain their concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take an initial note of the concerns but may ask to schedule a meeting to allow for more time to discuss the concerns in detail. Following the report and/or the meeting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a formal record of the report on the school's recording system MyConcern and other relevant members of staff will be alerted. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek advice from the police if a pupil is considered at risk.

We ask that parents/carers to come directly to the school with their concerns rather than discussing them with other members of the school community in person or online.

Our school remains committed to supporting pupils and their families. We will endeavour to ensure that all parties are kept informed of progress and any developments, but we will also need to show due regard to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and any ongoing investigations by external agencies where a serious incident has been reported (e.g., the incident is a hate crime). This may mean, at times, that we are not able to provide or share information or updates immediately.

If a parent/carer is not satisfied with our school's actions, we ask that they follow our school's complaint policy and procedures. This is available online from our school website and on request from the school office.

Staff

Our staff work closely with our children and therefore may notice a change in a child's behaviour or attitude that might indicate that something is wrong before receiving a report from a child or a member of the school community. If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare or are concerned that a child is displaying behaviours that may show they have been the victim of or that they are perpetrating prejudice-based abuse, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told.

We ask that staff report their concerns to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. The member of staff receiving the report will take an initial note of the concerns and will then make a formal record of the report on the school's recording system, MyConcern, and other relevant staff members will be alerted. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek advice from external agencies including the police if a pupil is considered at risk.

Breaches

Breaches to this statement will be dealt with in the same way that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the head teacher and governing body.

Policy Development

This policy has been developed to reflect the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) Statutory Guidance (2nd September 2024) and is available on the school's website or from the school office.

Links with other policies

You may find it helpful to read this child-on-child abuse policy alongside the other following school policies:

Policy	How it may link
Safeguarding Policy	Includes information about child protection procedures and contextualised safeguarding
Behaviour Regulation / Attitude To Learning Policy	Includes details about the school's behaviour system including potential sanctions for pupils
Anti-Bullying policy	Includes information about bullying behaviours and vulnerable groups
Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policies	Includes information about children's online behaviour and details about online bullying/cyberbullying
RSHE Policy	Includes information about our school's RSHE programme and how we teach about healthy relationships, friendships, diversity and bullying
Complaints Policy	Includes information about how to make a complaint if you are not satisfied with the school's response

Useful Links:

This is written in conjunction with our adherence to [Transform Trust's Equality Policy](#) which can be found at this [link](#).

- [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010)
- [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/child-rights/convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child)
- [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\) | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/disability-justice/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities)
- [The Human Rights Act | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights-act)

Holgate Primary and Nursery School Equality Data and Objectives

We have used the following data and information in identifying some of the barriers to our pupils accessing education provision. Using Scholarpack information we have collected information about pupils protected characteristics. The number of pupils on roll at the school is 355 including Nursery and the information we hold about these pupils is as follows:

Gender assigned at birth			
Girls	180	Boys	175

Ethnic Categories							
African Asian	1	Asian and Any Other Ethnic Group	1	Any Other Asian Background	1	Any Other Mixed Background	2
Any Other White Background	1	Arab Other	1	Black African	14	Black Nigerian	7
Greek	1	Hong Kong Chinese	1	Indian	8	Latin/South/Central America	1
Portuguese	1	Sri Lankan Other	1	White and Asian	1	White and Any Other Ethnic Group	2
White and Black African	5	White and Black Caribbean	7	White British	258	White English	17
White Other	1	Information Not Obtained	21				

Faith, Religion & Belief							
Christian	59	Hindu	5	Muslim	4	Sikh	5
Buddhist	2	Other Religion	4	No Religion	227	No information provided	49

Special Educational Need/Disability		
	Percentage	Actual Number

No Special Educational Need/Disability	80.6%	287/356
SEND Provision – SEND Support	17.9%	64/356
Pupils who have an EHCP	1.4 %	5/356
Total number of pupils with SEND	19.3%	69/356

SEND Categories			Intimate care numbers		
	Percentage	Actual Number		Percentage	Actual Number
Sensory or Physical Disability	1.5%	1/69	Problems with Personal Care	3.7%	13/356
Communication & Interaction	69.6%	48/69			
Cognition & Learning	11.5%	8/69			
Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs	17.4%	12/69			

SEND Groups										
	F1	F2	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTALS	
Specific Learning Difficulty					1				1	1.4%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1			2	1	1		4	9	13%
Severe Learning Difficulty				1				0	1	1.4%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty									0	0%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	1	2			3	2	2	1	11	15.9%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	2	8	3	7	2	5	3	4	34	49.4%
Hearing Impairment					1				1	1.4%
Vision Impairment									0	0%

Multi-Sensory Impairment									0	0%
Physical Disability									0	0%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	4	4		1		1	2		12	17.5%
TOTALS	8	14	3	11	8	9	7	9	69	

No Information is currently available on the following protected characteristics:

Gender Reassignment - The school does not currently collect or record any information on whether any of the children on roll have reassigned their gender. The school will obtain further support and guidance on how and when to monitor this when required.

Sexual Identity - The school does not currently collect or record any information on whether any of the pupils on roll identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender (LGBT). The school will endeavour to obtain advice and guidance from local and national specialists on how and when to ask pupils this question and how to use the data sensitively.

2024 – 2028 Equality Objectives

Equality Objective 1: Protected Characteristic – Race

To develop and embed an inclusive induction process for EAL pupils and their families and develop the classroom provision in order to support EAL pupils in accessing the curriculum provision.

Why?

Across the whole school we have had an increase of different languages spoken by our children, an increased proportion of these children join the school on an in year transfer which means they miss the usual start of the year induction / transition routines.

We have a large proportion of pupils deemed as EAL, who join the school directly from out of school, having had no English School experience (47% of our EAL pupils). All these factors can impact on the progress the children make in our school.

How? To

We are going to:

- Develop and embed an admission process when welcoming an EAL pupils and their families to the school.
- Enhance the relationships forged between EAL parents and children with the school, promoting the importance of developing both their own language as well as the English language.
- Develop and embed a robust assessment procedure for assessing language acquisition for EAL pupils.
- Monitor the progress made for EAL pupils and respond appropriately
- Develop the inclusive provision for EAL pupils in the classroom through scaffolding and adaptations.
- Provide CPD for staff in strategies to support EAL pupils to make progress in the curriculum.
- Research and deliver quality interventions to support EAL pupils to develop their English Language skills
- Ensure that there is representation of different languages around school as appropriate and work alongside the RE leader to raise awareness of the different cultures, religions and languages across school.

Outcome:

The children will:

- All children will display positive attitudes towards people of different religions, faiths and those that speak different languages.
- The children deemed as EAL, feel welcomed when they start our school and gain all the information needed for a smooth transition and have opportunities to develop their English Language skills through the curriculum provision and interventions.
- Staff demonstrate an improved knowledge about the range of languages represented in our school and how they can support pupils to access the curriculum.
- The school actively celebrates and promotes the diversity of our school community

2024 – 2028 Equality Objectives

Equality Objective 2: Protected Characteristic – Disability

To ensure curriculum provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs enables them equitable access to their age appropriate learning

Why?

The proportion of children with SEND needs associated with communication and interaction needs has increased by 17% from last academic year across the school. Due to this we feel the school needs to have a key focus on monitoring the provision for this in order to further develop our offer for pupils with communication and interaction needs.

How?

We are going to:

- Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of how to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all pupils through adaptations e.g. scaffolding resources, equipment, etc.
- Develop our classroom environments to be inclusive of all children, considering organisation, layout, cognitive overload, etc.
- Provide staff with specialised training in order to support pupils with communication and interaction needs more effectively
- Monitor provision for children who have communication and interaction needs to ensure they are catered for effectively.
- Further develop the use of additional adults to support children with communication and interaction needs

Outcome:

- Children with communication and interaction needs are accessing age appropriate provision, through the use of a range of effective adaptations.
- Staff confidence has improved in how to plan and deliver adaptations to address the barriers to learning for children with communication and interaction needs.
- Through appropriate intervention children with communication and interaction needs make academic progress and / or progress in their emotional wellbeing.
- Pupils with communication and interaction needs have clear provision plans in place, where necessary, including agency involvement that ensures the provision is effective and suitable.