

RYDES HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

P18 (ISI 17A) – EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY



MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ Rydes Hill Preparatory School and Nursery is a Catholic school where children learn how to live in loving relationship with God and each other.
- ❖ Christian virtues of love and justice, faith and courage, hope and perseverance are fostered.
- ❖ Pupils and staff comprise individuals of different faiths and beliefs but the Rydes Hill community aspires to unity within the life of the school based on shared moral values.
- ❖ The importance placed on the development of individual talents is at the heart of what school stands for and all are encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be.

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Revision History

Revision	Paragraph Number	Revision
October 2011		New Document
October 2012		Updated
October 2013		Updated
October 2014		Updated
October 2015		Updated
October 2016		Updated
January 2018		Updated
March 2019		Updated
March 2020	Paragraph 1 Paragraph 5 Paragraph 7 Paragraph 14 Paragraph 15	Bullet 1 – add “including perceived protected characteristics”. Add “and staff” Add reference to Deputy Heads Add “and staff” Add “Collective Worship” and “RSE”
March 2021	Paragraph 7 Paragraph 12	Remove page number in staff handbook Change Headmistress, Bursar to SLT
March 2022	Paragraph 7 Paragraph 21	Change Headmistress, Bursar, Deputy Heads to SLT Insert paragraph on sexual harassment
January 2023	Paragraph 15	Rename PSHCE Life Skills
March 2023		Major rewrite

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
EAL	English as an Additional Language meaning where English is not the first/main language of the learner
<i>Protected Characteristics</i>	Characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 include: - Age, disability including SEN, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
<i>Reasonable Adjustments</i>	Changes to provisions, criteria, practices, physical features, auxiliary aids and services. Criteria of what is “reasonable” is not defined in law however case law illustrates that account will be taken of a variety of factors such as effectiveness of

	adjustment, practicability, interests of other pupils and prospective pupils, health and safety etc.
SLT	Senior Leadership Team (Consisting of Headmistress, Bursar, Deputy Head (Academic), Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Head of Nursery)

1. Aims

Rydes Hill Preparatory School & Nursery wants to be recognised as a school providing an inclusive, safe, caring and stimulating environment in which to learn.

2. Equality Statement

At Rydes Hill School, 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. We 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.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Rydes Hill, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach, and visit here.

3. Legal Duties

At Rydes Hill 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:

- Analyse Equality Information – to demonstrate compliance with the general duty across its functions. (We will not publish any information that can specifically identify any individual).

To do this effectively we will collect data related to the protected characteristics above and analyse this data to determine that we meet our general duties. In relation to school provision, we will pay particular attention to the following functions:

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

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 RHSE / Life Skills 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 widely.
- Regularly review our progress

4. 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.

5. 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/carers, 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 Rydes Hill Preparatory 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 the most recent version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

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 Code 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.

6. Pupils, Including Bystanders/Witnesses

We talk about trusted adults regularly in school to remind our pupils of who they can report concerns to. The definitions of **victim**, **perpetrator** and **bystander** are clarified to all pupils regularly to develop a shared understanding.

- We emphasise the importance of all pupils (whether a victim or a bystander) reporting concerns of bullying or bullying behaviour to a member of school staff – this can be any member of teaching or non-teaching staff, including a class teacher, a teaching assistant, the head teacher, a lunchtime supervisor, or a member of the office team.
- The member of staff will **listen** to the pupil and make an initial note of their concerns, they will then discuss next steps with them and reassure them that they will be supported.
- The member of staff will make a formal record of the bullying report on the school's recording system 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 pupil is considered at risk.
- Even if the behaviour/incident which has been reported is deemed 'not bullying' and is thought to be 'relational conflict', school staff will still support

the pupils involved and help them to resolve any concerns.

We understand that some pupils 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 box where the pupil can put their name/a brief note about their concerns (either written or drawn). The worry box is introduced to the pupils at the start of the year and pupils are reminded of its existence regularly. The ELSA will check the box regularly and take any necessary action.

7. Parents/Carers

We understand that it can be very difficult for a parent/carer to hear that their child has been the target of bullying, has experienced bullying behaviour or is an alleged perpetrator of bullying.

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

The following steps will be taken to investigate:

- Initially, we ask parents/carers to contact their child's class teacher (in person/via telephone call/via year group email) to explain their concerns.
- The class teacher will take an initial note of the concerns but may ask to schedule a meeting to allow for more time to discuss these in detail.
- The school's Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed if the allegation is deemed urgent or if a pupil is considered at risk.
- Following an allegation, the class teacher will make a formal record of this on the school's recording system.
- An investigation into the allegation will be carried out and appropriate follow-up actions identified and taken.

Our school remains committed to supporting pupils and their families in all instances of bullying and relational conflict and will respond to reports promptly. Even if the behaviour/incident which has been reported is deemed 'not bullying' and is thought to be 'relational conflict', school staff will still support the pupils involved and help them to resolve any concerns.

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. This may mean, at times, that we are not able to provide or share information or updates.

8. School Staff

Our staff work closely with our pupils and therefore may notice a change in a pupil's behaviour or attitude that might indicate that something is wrong before receiving a report from a pupil or a member of the school community. If staff have any concerns about a pupil's

welfare or are concerned that a pupil is displaying behaviours that may show they are the target of bullying or perhaps perpetrating bullying, they should act on them immediately rather than wait to be told, following the procedures outlined above in the 'Parents/Carers' section.

9. Complaints

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 by request from the school office. This policy is available:

- Online via the school website www.rydeshill.com

10. Links with other policies

Policy	How it may link
P04 Safeguarding Policy	Includes information about child protection procedures and contextualised safeguarding
P16 Behaviour Rewards & Sanctions Policy	Includes details about the school's behaviour system including potential sanctions for pupils
P01 Anti-Bullying Policy	Includes information about bullying behaviours and vulnerable groups
P50 Online Safety P52 i-Pad & Laptop Acceptable Use	Includes information about children's online behaviour and details about online bullying/cyberbullying
P07 RSHE / P44 Life Skills Policy	Includes information about our school's RSHE programme and how we teach about healthy relationships, friendships, diversity and bullying
P39 Complaints Policy	Includes information about how to make a complaint if you are not satisfied with the school's response

11. Monitoring and Review

As a minimum, we will review our policy in relation to any changes in our school profile at least every three years. In addition, Equality will be reviewed as a part of the process reviewing the School Development Plan.

12. Useful Links:

[Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](http://equalityhumanrights.com)

[UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\) | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](http://equalityhumanrights.com)

[The Human Rights Act | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](http://equalityhumanrights.com)