



**CWMBRAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Strategic Equality Plan

2016-2017

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Approved by Governing Body:
Full Governing Body: 6/2/17

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1. Our distinctive character, priorities and aims

1.1 School values

At Cwmbran High 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 disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage and civil partnership. 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 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 Cwmbran High School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

1.2 Characteristics of our school

Cwmbran High School is an English-medium, co-educational 11-18 comprehensive school, with 1200 pupils on roll, formed in September 2015 following the closure of Fairwater High School and Llantarnam School. The school's intake is drawn from both advantaged and disadvantaged areas. There is, however, a large amount of social and economic deprivation in the area served by the school, with 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals. The school caters for the full ability range; the range of prior attainment of pupils attending the school is very wide. 43 pupils have statements of special educational needs. The school has a Learning Resource Base to support pupils who have low literacy skills. The school also has a resourced provision, the Language and Communication Base, for 12 pupils on the autistic spectrum and a Hearing Impaired Unit, housing 14 pupils. 3 pupils speak Welsh as a first language or to an equivalent standard. 5% of pupils belong to an ethnic minority group.

1.3 Mainstreaming equality into policy and practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the school operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways.

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- use contextual data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of pupils;
- monitor achievement data according to the various protected characteristics and action any gaps;
- take account of the achievement of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets;

- ensure equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- use materials that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of the various protected characteristics, without stereotyping;
- promote attitudes and values that will challenge racist and other discriminatory behaviour or prejudice;
- provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures;
- seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;
- encouraging classroom and staffroom discussion of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- including teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole school population, which are inclusive and reflective of our pupils

1.4 Setting our equality objectives

We recognise our duty and responsibility to establish equality for all learners, staff, other members of the school community and service users regardless of their race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy & maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

The purpose of our **Strategic Equality Plan (SEP)** is to fulfil the duties to promote equality for people with 'protected characteristics', and embed fairness and equality at the heart of our school community and in all aspects of our school plans and policies.

In setting the equality objectives for this school, we will take due regard to the Equality Act general duty:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; this means
 - a. removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
 - b. taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - c. encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Our SEP and Equality Objectives are set in the light of:

- The Torfaen equality objectives identified in **Appendix 1**;
- views expressed by stakeholders that have been involved in the development of the scheme;

- issues arising as a result of our analysis of our pupil data, e.g. attainment data of boys compared to girls
- issues arising as a result of an increase in the number of pupils undergoing, or beginning the process of, gender reassignment

Our School Equality Objectives are set out in **Section 5 and Appendix 2**.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Governing Body

The governing body has set out its commitment to equality and diversity in this plan and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is fully inclusive to pupils, and responsive to their needs based on the various protected characteristics. The governing body:

- seeks to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for jobs at our school;
- takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make communications as inclusive as possible for parents, carers and pupils;
- ensures that no child is discriminated against whilst in our school

In order to meet its reporting responsibility, the governing body will report on the progress of the SEP annually, as part of its Annual Report to parents.

2.2 Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT promotes equality and eliminates discrimination by:

- implementing the school's SEP, supported by the governing body in doing so;
- ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Act and are fully informed of our school's SEP and equality objectives,
- ensuring that all appointments' panels give due regard to this plan, so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment or training opportunities;
- promoting the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum, and promoting respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of school life;
- treating all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination according to the Authority's and school's policies

2.3 Staff – teaching and non-teaching

The school regards equality for all as a responsibility for all. All members of staff contribute to ensuring that our school is a fair, just and cohesive community by:

- ensuring that all pupils are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and will maintain awareness of the school's SEP;
- striving to provide material that gives positive images based on the protected characteristics and challenges stereotypical images;
- challenging any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia, and record any serious incidents as prescribed in the LA and school's policies, e.g. reporting of racial incidents;
- supporting the work of ancillary or support staff and encourage them to intervene in a positive way against any discriminatory incidents

3. Information Gathering and Engagement

3.1 Purpose and process

The collection of information is crucial to supporting us in deciding what actions to take to improve equality and eliminate discrimination within the school community. The information also subsequently helps us to review our performance, so it needs to be detailed enough to enable us to measure how we are delivering on equality duties. The information also helps us to do accurate impact assessment and identify which of the school's aims have been achieved and what we need to do better.

Engagement is based on the information gained about representation of different groups. We aim to do this as fully as possible **while recognising issues of sensitivity in relation to the different protected characteristics**. We take particular steps to ensure disabled children and young people, parents and carers are involved as is their entitlement. The reason that this progress is important is to understand the full range of needs of the school community.

3.2 Types of information gathered

The wide range of information gathered to support our planning and action to promote equality and eliminate discrimination includes the following:

- identification of children and young people, parents, carers, staff and other users of the school representing the different protected characteristics, if possible and appropriate. This helps us develop and monitor the scheme. Comprehensive and sensitive efforts are made to collect accurate information and meet data protection requirements, in addition to our duty to secure accurate information relating to ethnicity and first language;
- pupil attainment and progress data relating to different groups;
- children and young people's views actively sought and incorporated in a way that values their contribution;
- information about how different groups access the whole curriculum and how they make choices between subject options;
- sports and activities choices of all groups;
- uptake of enrichment activities by group;
- exclusions data analysed by group;

- records of bullying and harassment on the grounds of any equality issue;
- data on the recruitment, development and retention of employees;

3.3 Engagement

The school involves **stakeholders** including children and young people, staff, parents/carers, governors and other users of the school in relation to all equalities duties. We take into account the preferred means of communication for those with whom we are consulting e.g. translated materials or interpretation facilities for disabled people or those for whom English is an additional language or are newly arrived in this country.

The views of stakeholders and other equalities related groups are genuinely taken into account when we set priorities.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

Impact assessment refers to the review of all current and proposed plans and policies in order to help us act to promote equality and to ensure no person is disadvantaged by school activities through discrimination. Impact assessments are an on-going process to ensure that the school's plans and policies are developed in an increasingly inclusive and equitable way.

As part of this school's compliance of the specific duties of the Act, we will continue to undertake impact assessment of all new policies and plans prior to them being implemented. Similarly, we will impact assess our existing policies and plans whenever they are reviewed. As such, impact assessments are incorporated into the school's planned review and revision of every policy.

Where impact assessments have been done, they will influence changes to policy and the review of the SEP itself.

5. Objectives and Action Plans

Our chosen Equality Objectives are

1. To reduce the attainment gap between boys and girls at KS4
2. To support those pupils undergoing, or beginning the process of, gender reassignment

We have action plans covering all relevant protected characteristics (Appendix 2). These describe how we are taking action to fulfil both the general and specific duties.

Our action plans will be incorporated into the School Development Plan, which ensures that they will be checked, monitored and evaluated systematically.

The action plans show:

- objectives and specific actions;
- expected impact and indicators of achievement (success criteria);
- clear timescales;
- who has lead responsibility;
- resource implications;
- specified dates for impact assessment and review.

The school evaluates the effectiveness of the SEP on an annual basis, through the self-evaluation process.

6. Publication and reporting

The school provides a copy of its SEP and its action plan to meet its equality objectives in a range of formats and actively makes it available to parents/carers and others, including those identified as difficult to engage.

The school reports annually on the progress made on the action plans and the impact of the SEP itself on school ethos and practice within the school. This is undertaken as part of the Governors' Annual Report.

All data collected will be used solely for the purpose of analysing trends.

7. Monitor and Review

As part of our responsibility to monitor the SEP, we commit to:

- revisiting and analysing the information and data used to identify priorities for the SEP and action plans. This incorporates use of the overview of outcomes;
- using the impact assessments to ensure that actions taken have a positive impact across all protected characteristics, that the promotion of equality is at the heart of school planning and that discrimination is being eliminated effectively.

The review of the SEP informs its revision, the setting of new priorities and action plans. This process continues to:

- involve the participation of a range of stakeholders;
- be evidenced based - using information and data that the school has gathered and analysed;
- use the evidence to do accurate impact assessments which inform priorities.

We will undertake a full review of our SEP by January 2018

Appendix 1

Torfaen Equality Objectives

The most important part of the 'Equality Promise'

The Council's Equality Objectives:

Gender Equality

The Council Will Ensure Gender Equality In Pay Within The Workplace. This Will Be Demonstrated Through Equality In Pay And Pay Distribution Within The Workforce. (Executive Member For Resources)

How this will be achieved:

Through monitoring of workforce profile and taking positive steps via a Cabinet approved policy to reduce any significant inequality.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with targets that will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

The Council In Collaboration With Other Stakeholders Will Work To Reduce Domestic Abuse Within The Torfaen Community And Improve Its Service Response To Victims Of Domestic Violence. (Executive Member For Corporate Governance And Community Safety)

How this will be achieved:

By monitoring the levels of incidence of domestic abuse in Torfaen and taking steps via Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee approved policy to alter and develop the service response where insufficient reduction is achieved.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with targets that will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

Disability Equality

The Council Will Work To Reduce The Economic Disadvantage And Poverty Faced By Many Disabled People As A Result Of Reduced Access To The Opportunity For Work And Insufficient Welfare Support. – (Executive Member For Health, Social Care, Well Being And Equalities)

How this will be achieved:

Through employment, poverty alleviation and regeneration projects that have a specific emphasis toward reducing the inequality experienced by disabled people.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with improvement targets set that, the achievement of which will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

**We Will Improve Access To Council's Buildings And Services.
(Executive Member For Resources)**

How this will be achieved:

Through building physical accessibility improvements into the standard estate management process.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with targets that will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

We Will Work To Improve Accessibility To Quality And Timely Housing Suitable To The Needs Of Disabled People. (Executive Member For Health, Social Care, Well Being And Equalities)

How this will be achieved:

Annual improvement targets will be set to improve the housing provision waiting time 'gap' for disabled people and policy or process developed to achieve this.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process which will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

Race Equality

We Will Work Toward Narrowing The Gap In Educational Participation And Achievement For Children For Who It Is Demonstrable Are Disadvantaged In The Education System. (Executive Member For Children And Young People)

How this will be achieved:

Positive intervention projects will continue to be developed by the LEA and performance improvement targets set.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process, progress on which will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

**We Will Work To Ensure That All People Feel Safe And Specifically Work To Reduce, Detect And Respond To Hate Crimes And Harassment.
We Will Consider All Groups That Can Be Affected By Hate Crime This Being: Age, Race, Disability, Religion And Sexual Orientation And Transgender.
(Executive Member for Corporate Governance And Community Safety)**

How this will be achieved:

By monitoring the levels of incidence of Hate crime in Torfaen and taking steps via Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee approved policy and the Community Safety Partnership to alter and develop the service response.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with targets that will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

Age Equality

We Will Work To Reduce The Employment Disadvantage Experienced By The Young People And The Proportion Of Young People Not In Work, Education, Employment Or Training. (Executive Member For Children And Young People)

How this will be achieved:

Through employment, poverty alleviation and regeneration projects that have a specific emphasis toward reducing the inequality experienced by young people.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with improvement targets set that, the achievement of which will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

We Will Work To Reduce Any Care Disadvantage Experienced By Older People And Promote Greater Opportunities For Re-ablement. (Executive Member For Health, Social Care, Well Being And Equalities)

How this will be achieved:

Through various rehabilitation projects that have a specific emphasis toward promoting and protecting the independence of older people.

By when:

This will be an ongoing process with targets that will be reported to Cabinet Equalities Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

Appendix 2

Cwmbran High School

Strategic Equality Plan 2016 – 2017

Equality Objectives and Action Plan

Equality Objective 1 To reduce the attainment gap between boys and girls at KS4				
Our Research: Analysis of KS4 outcomes and PC data. Intervention where necessary.				
Information from Engagement: Concerns over performance of boys in English at Year 11 in August is echoed by concerns regarding current Year 11. JBA has targeted a sub-cohort of boys and is providing intervention through the Tutorial programme.				
Data Development: PC 1 – 5 analysis				
This objective will be judged to be successful if... There is a reduction in the attainment gap between boys and girls at KS4				
Actions:				
	Description	Responsibility	Start date	End date
1.1	Analysis of KS4 outcomes and subsequent PC data	SLT	Sept 16	June 17
1.2	Consultation with HoDs	SLT/HoDs	Sept 16	June 17

<p>Equality Objective 2 To address the needs of pupils undergoing, or beginning the process of, gender reassignment To raise whole staff awareness of the issues surrounding gender reassignment</p>				
<p>Our Research: Coordinating, and working with, outside support agencies such as Rainbow</p>				
<p>Information from Engagement: Awareness raising amongst key pastoral support staff; this will need to be disseminated to all staff</p>				
<p>Data Development: N/A</p>				
<p>This objective will be judged to be successful if... Transgender pupils feel supported by the school All staff are aware of transgender issues</p>				
<p>Actions:</p>				
	Description	Responsibility	Start date	End date
1.1	Programme of support provided for transgender pupils	GDI/FLO	Sept 16	Ongoing, based on need
1.2	Awareness raising exercise amongst teaching staff	GDI/FLO	Sept 16	Ongoing, based on need