



EQUALITY POLICY

This policy is applicable to our schools; Khalsa Secondary Academy (KSA), ATAM, The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton (TKAW) and any further schools we open.

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Introduction

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), part of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in April 2011. It requires organisations to consider the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in all that they do. It aims to put fairness at the heart of public bodies' work and to ensure that public services meet the needs of different groups. It covers a range of public bodies, including academies, schools, NHS organisations, government departments, local authorities and police authorities.

Under previous legislation, public bodies were required to take into account gender, race and disability equality both as employers and when making policy decisions and delivering services. The new duty standardises this requirement and also extends it to cover religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. Age, marriage and civil partnership are also protected characteristics but the legal duty here does not apply to schools.

The general equality duty

Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 puts various requirements on academies when exercising their functions. The general duty requires academies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard means consciously thinking about the three aims of the PSED as part of the process of decision-making. This means that consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by academies, such as:

- how they act as employers
- how they develop, evaluate and review policy

- how they design, deliver and evaluate services
- how they commission and procure from others.

The specific equality duties

To help public bodies perform the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) more effectively, regulations were approved in Parliament requiring academies to:

- publish information to demonstrate compliance with the PSED at least annually starting from 31 January 2012
- prepare and publish equality objectives at least every four years starting from 6 April 2012.

The Khalsa Academies Trust (KAT) and its schools

The Khalsa Academies Trust is a Multi Academy Trust which supports local communities to help establish and run Sikh Schools.

The new schools are improving local educational opportunities and parental choice by providing new high-achieving schools.

The Trust provides support to local schools in many ways but foremost for education, so it is right that at the heart of what we do is a focus on school improvement, staff development, and enabling our young people to excel. We support schools in meeting the challenges of rising expectations through mutually supportive intervention and training. Secondly, the Trust takes responsibility for financial and resource management that delivers efficiency, effectiveness and economies of scale, so that schools can concentrate on what matters: the education of young people. And thirdly, because all our schools are based on the Sikh ethos, we support schools in the nurturing of the distinctive ethos enshrined in the principle of equality, wellbeing and success for all ‘Sarbat da bhala’.

This principle and our values will ensure that our young people will be poised to make a positive contribution in our multi cultural Britain.

Our approach to education is rooted in the Sikh ethos, and principles of equality and social justice are integral to this. We believe that:

all people are created equally, regardless of their background, physical disability, or because of age, race, gender, marital status or other “protected characteristic”, but sought out the marginalised and those deemed less worthy by society at large.

we are empowered with many different gifts to serve one another and to build a more just society; we do this through our relationship with one another and with the communities around us.

We believe that the Equality Act provides a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. It also ensures that we continue to tackle issues of disadvantage and underachievement of different groups.

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.

The values of equality, respect, social justice, valuing people equally and building community should run through every aspect of the work in our schools and in the KAT organisation itself. These values should pervade our policies, processes, structures, staffing and governance, as well as our approach to the curriculum, collective worship and to our pastoral care. We will consider the equalities implications of any key decisions that we take and will provide training and support for decision-makers to identify potential issues.

Education is about fulfilling human potential, which we see as a gift given to all people regardless of their background. We will seek to ensure high-quality teaching and excellent progress and attainment for all our children, regardless of background, and we will actively seek to remove barriers to learning, particularly among children with protected characteristics. We will do this by monitoring achievement and by directing resources to overcome obstacles, supporting those with special educational needs and adapting our approach to meet individual need.

Behaviour and attendance make a significant contribution to effective teaching and learning. We will ensure that our policies and systems for managing behaviour and attendance take sensitive account of protected characteristics. We will not allow bullying or harassment, especially on the basis of perceived differences between people (adults or children), and we will encourage positive attitudes and relationships and a sense of belonging. We will monitor the impact and effectiveness of behaviour and attendance systems across different groups of pupils.

Effective teaching and learning also requires effective leadership and management. We will support our head teachers, senior leaders and governors to create and maintain school environments in which our pupils can thrive, regardless of their background.

Our schools stand at the heart of their local communities. In seeking to meet the needs of society, we will be mindful of the needs of disadvantaged groups. In consulting with local communities on proposals, we will listen to all views. We will ensure that our policies for school admission, our structures for participation in school life and the physical environment of the school do not cause unlawful discrimination but promote equal opportunities and foster good relations between different groups of people.

This policy describes how KAT and its schools meet the statutory equality duties and comply with national guidance. It includes guidance to staff and outside visitors about our approach to promoting equality.

Appendix 1 is a checklist of key equality considerations.

Appendix 2 shows KAT/School Equality Objectives for 2020-2022 in an Equality Action Plan.

This policy was developed by the KAT in consultation with key stakeholders. As a part of our commitment to promoting equalities and providing distinctive, effective, rooted and inclusive schools, we will continue to review this policy/action plan with a range of key stake holders including staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors.

When developing the policy we took account of the DfE guidance on the Equality Act 2010 and also the current Ofsted inspection framework, which places a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on closing gaps in standards.

We note that OFSTED has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disabled and those who have special educational needs.

Links to other policies and documentation

Although this policy is the key document for information about our approach to equalities in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we will ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act is also included in school development plans, self-evaluation reviews, promotional material, KAT and school websites and newsletters.

There are also references in the behaviour, admissions, SEN and anti-bullying policies, as well as minutes of meetings involving Directors and governors, central and school staff, senior leadership teams and school council.

The Equality Act also applies to academy trusts in their role as employers, and the way we comply with this are found in our recruitment policy.

What we are doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

We take account of equality issues in relation to admissions and exclusions; the way we provide education for our pupils and the way we provide access for pupils to facilities and services. We are aware of the Reasonable Adjustment duty for disabled pupils – designed to enhance access and participation to the level of non-disabled pupils and stop disabled children being placed at a disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.

The Head teachers ensure that all appointment panels give due regard to this policy so that no one is discriminated against unlawfully when it comes to employment, promotion or training opportunities. We ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. We take seriously the need to consider the equality implications when we develop, adapt and review any policy or procedure and whenever we make significant decisions about the day to day life of the school.

We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and we do not discriminate against pupils by treating them less favourably on the grounds of their sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity. Our faith schools are legally entitled to take account of religion and belief in our admissions arrangements, but we regularly review the impact of these provisions. Our ethos schools comply with general admissions arrangements.

Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance

Our policies on Behaviour take full account of the duties under the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustment for pupils with a disability. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from school for evidence of over-representation of different groups and take action promptly to address concerns addressing prejudice and prejudice based bullying. KAT and its schools challenge all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality:

- prejudices around disability and special educational needs

- prejudices around race, religion or belief, for example travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum
- prejudices around gender and sexual orientation, including homophobic and transphobic attitudes

There is guidance in the staff handbook on how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with. We treat all bullying incidents equally seriously.

We keep a record of different prejudice-related incidents and provide a report to local governing bodies about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how we dealt with them. We review this data termly and take action to reduce incidents.

What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups

We know the needs of our school populations and collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and identify targets to achieve improvements. We have procedures, working in partnership with parents and carers, to identify children who have a disability through our pupil admissions meetings. We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils and use this data to support school improvement. We take action to close any gaps, for example, for those making slow progress in acquiring age appropriate literacy and number skills.

We collect, analyse and publish data:

- on the school population by gender and ethnicity
- on the % of pupils identified as having a special educational need and/or disability and by their principal need or disability
- by year group – in terms of ethnicity, gender and proficiency in English
- on inequalities of outcome and participation, related to ethnicity, gender and disability and proficiency in English

We publish an analysis of standards reached by different groups at the end of each key stage, including the following groups:

- Free School Meals/Pupil Premium
- EAL
- Ethnic group
- Looked after Children
- All SEND
- SEND statements/EHCP plans
- Gifted & Talented

We also collect, analyse and use data in relation to attendance and exclusions of different groups. This data will be available from the relevant school office.

We are aware that the legislation relates mainly to current but also to future pupils – we will for example, be sufficiently prepared if a Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired or Traveller pupil joins our school.

We avoid language that runs the risk of placing a ceiling on any pupils' achievement or that seeks to define their potential as learners, such as "less able".

We use a range of teaching strategies that ensures we meet the needs of all pupils

- We provide support to pupils at risk of underachieving
- We are alert and proactive about the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender, disability and sexuality.

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between, for example:

- disabled and non-disabled people
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds

We ensure equality of access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum, removing barriers to participation where necessary.

Positive Action

We will take positive and proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils with particular protected characteristics, such as targeted support. The actions will be designed to meet KAT Equality Objectives.

What we are doing to foster good relations

We prepare our pupils for life in a diverse society and ensure that there are activities across the curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

We teach about difference and diversity and the impact of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination through PSHE and citizenship and across the curriculum.

We use materials and resources that reflect the diversity of the school, population and local community in terms of race, gender, sexual identity and disability, avoiding stereotyping.

We promote a whole school ethos and values that challenge prejudice based discriminatory language, attitudes and behaviour.

We provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.

We include the contribution of different cultures to world history and that promote positive images of people.

We provide opportunities for pupils to listen to a range of opinions and empathise with different experiences.

We promote positive messages about equality and diversity through displays, assemblies, visitors and whole school events e.g. Black History Month and Deaf Awareness week.

We include Equalities matters in our Newsletters to parents and carers.

Other ways we will address equality issues

We maintain records of all training relating to Equalities. Our monitoring records include evaluations of aspects of Equalities.

We have a rolling programme for reviewing all of our school policies in relation to equalities and their impact on the progress, safety and well-being of our pupils.

The implications for equalities of new policies and practices are considered before they are introduced.

In order to ensure that the work we are doing on equalities meets the needs of whole school communities, we:

- review relevant feedback from parent questionnaires, parents' evening, parent-school forum and/or focus meetings or governors/parent consultation meetings
- secure and analyse responses from staff surveys, staff meetings and training events
- review feedback and responses from the children and groups of children, from the school council, PSHE lessons, whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school;
- analyse issues raised in Annual Reviews or reviews of progress on Individual Education Plans, mentoring and support
- ensure that we secure responses and feedback at Governing Body meetings and from the governing body's working groups

Publishing Equality Objectives (see Equality Action Plan/School Development Plans)

The objectives which we identify represent our priorities and are the outcome of a careful review of and analysis of data and other evidence. They also take into account national and local priorities and issues.

We evaluate our success in meeting the Public Service Equality Duties by the extent to which we achieve improved outcomes for the different groups. We produce equality data analysis which inform our discussions about the Equality Objectives.

We produce an Equality Action Plan that shows how we will achieve our objectives: see Appendix 2.

Monitoring and reviewing objectives

We review and update our equality objectives every two years and report annually to the Directors and to local governing bodies on progress towards achieving them. We involve and consult staff, pupils, governors and parents and carers.

Roles and Responsibilities

We expect all members of our school communities and visitors to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

KAT Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that KAT as a whole complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.

The Trust Standards Committee has particular responsibility for equalities issues in relation to staffing matters and also oversees equalities issues in relation to the curriculum, attainment and progress, and for admissions/exclusions and discipline. Buildings and environmental issues are overseen by the Finance Audit & Risk Committee. The main Board of Trustees will maintain an overview of compliance with this policy and progress in achieving targets.

Local Governing Bodies

Each school's local advisory body is responsible for ensuring that its school complies with legislation, that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented, and that it develops and monitors its own school-level objectives.

Every local advisory board keeps aspects of the school's commitment to the Equality Duty under review, for example, in terms of standards, curriculum, admissions, exclusions, personnel issues and the school environment. Governors annually evaluate the success of the school's Equalities Work taking account of quantitative evidence (e.g. data) and qualitative evidence (e.g. surveys).

Leadership Teams

The head teachers are responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

A senior member of school staff has day-to-day responsibility for coordinating implementation of the policy and for monitoring outcomes. S/he will have received training in relation to the Equality Act.

Teaching and Support Staff

All teaching and support staff will:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- challenge prejudice and discrimination
- deal fairly and professionally with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect KAT's principles, for example, in providing materials that give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability
- maintain the highest expectations of success for all pupils
- support different groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially those who may (sometimes temporarily) find aspects of academic learning difficult
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work

We will provide training and guidance on Equalities for all staff new to the school as part of the induction procedure. We will go through the principal expectations and duties of the Equality Act at a whole staff meeting at the start of the school year.

Visitors

All visitors to the school, including parents and carers are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy. We will provide guidance and information in school newsletters to enable them to do this.

Equal Opportunities for staff

This section deals with aspects of equal opportunities relating to staff. We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.

We are also concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our communities.

As an employer we strive to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

We ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Disseminating the policy

This Equality Policy along with the Equality Objectives and data is available:

- on KAT website and individual school websites
- as paper copies in each school office
- in the staff handbook
- on display for visitors, including parents and carers

- as part of induction for new staff
- as a summary in any school brochure

We ensure that each whole school community (and all central staff) know about the policy, objectives and data through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications.

We publish on the KAT website and school websites copies of relevant policies and guidance, including those on behaviour, anti-bullying and special educational needs.

Monitoring, evaluation and review:

Head teachers will report to their local advisory boards and to KAT CEO on the effectiveness of the policy at school level. The CEO will report on the effectiveness of the policy to the KAT Board of Directors as appropriate.

The KAT Board of Directors will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout KAT and its schools.

APPENDIX 1

Check list for KAT, Schools and LABs

- KAT and schools collect information on race, disability and gender with regards to both pupils and staff, e.g. pupil achievement, attendance, exclusions and staff training
- This information is used to inform the policies, plans and strategies, lessons, additional support, training and activities KAT and its schools provide
- The Equality Policy & Plan have been shaped by the views, input & involvement of staff, parents, governors, pupils & other stakeholders
- KAT and its schools publish information to demonstrate purposeful action on the general duties
- KAT & its schools analyse Pupil achievement in terms of progress and standards for different groups and takes action when trends or patterns indicate a need
- KAT sets Equality Objectives to improve outcomes for vulnerable pupils and monitors progress on reaching these objectives
- A senior member of staff has responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the policy and monitoring outcomes
- KAT ensures that all staff understand and implement the key requirements of the Equality Policy
- KAT schools ensure that visitors to the school understand and follow the key requirements of the Equality Policy
- The curriculum includes opportunities for all pupils to understand and celebrate diversity and difference
- All groups of pupils are encouraged to participate in school life and make a positive contribution, e.g. through class assemblies, pupil voice

- KAT and its schools monitor bullying and harassment of pupils in terms of difference and diversity (i.e. different groups) and takes action if there is a cause for concern
- Visual displays and multi-media resources reflect the diversity of the school community
- Minority ethnic, disabled and both male and female role models and those of vulnerable groups are promoted positively in lessons, displays, discussions and assemblies
- KAT and its schools take part in annual events to raise awareness of issues around race, disability and gender
- The school environments are increasingly accessible to pupils, staff and visitors to the school
- Open evenings and other events which parents, carers and the community attend are held in an accessible part of the school and issues such as language barriers are considered
- The accessibility needs of parents, pupils and staff are considered in the publishing and sending out of information
- The Local Advisory Board procedures for the election of parent and staff governors are open to candidates and voters who are disabled

APPENDIX 2

Equality Action Plan (Including accessibility plan) 2020 - 2022

Public Sector Equality Duty	Equality Objectives	Actions	How impact of the action will be monitored	Person Responsible	Time Frames	Progress commentary
Advance equality of opportunity	Improve learning outcomes and remove barriers to learning for vulnerable groups	Establish & embed trust-wide monitoring of progress & attainment for vulnerable groups	Review of progress and attainment data in head teachers termly reports.	Heads	Termly	
			Review of attendance, exclusions, behaviour data in head teachers termly reports	Heads	Termly	
		Identify & disseminate best practice in curriculum & interventions	Trust Standards Committee	Chair of Standards	Annually	
		Revise SEND policy & procedures	Ensure compliance with policy	Chair of Standards	Annually	

		Review PSHE curriculum	Trust Standards Committee	Chair of Standards	Annually	
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Eliminate discrimination Advance equality of opportunity	Provide an education available to all (the witness of inclusivity), within available resources	Review admission arrangements	Annual review carried out by LAB during Spring term	Chair of LAB	Feb of each year	
		Review behaviour & discipline policies	Annual review carried out by KAT	Trustees	Annually	
		Monitor admissions & exclusions data for vulnerable groups	Review by LAB on termly basis	Chair of LAB	Termly	

Foster good relations	Promote pupils' understanding of equal worth and non-discrimination	<p>Embed teaching of equal worth & non-discrimination within curriculum</p> <p>Celebrate diversity through curriculum and special events.</p>	<p>Trust Standards Committee</p> <p>LAB and Heads plan and hold events</p>	<p>Chair of Standards</p> <p>Heads/Chair of LAB</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>	
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Public Sector Equality Duty	Equality Objectives	Actions	How impact of the action will be monitored	Person Responsible	Time Frames	Progress commentary
Eliminate discrimination; Advance equality of opportunity	Improve the accessibility of KAT school buildings & environment	Audit accessibility of KAT school buildings & environment	Termly health and safety walks carried out by KAT Compliance lead and Head	Heads/Compliance	Termly	
		Devise accessibility improvement plan	LAB agenda item	Heads/Compliance		
		Make appropriate EFA funding bids for capital improvements	Review of bids at board	Projects Lead		
		Implement improvements	LGB/Board reviews	Head/Compliance		
School Level Accessibility Improvement Plan						

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