



# Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils

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Reviewed and Updated:	September 2024; 2025
Date of next review:	September 2025
Owner:	SMT
Intended audience:	All
Location:	School Portal and Website

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Promoting equal opportunities is fundamental to the aims and ethos of Haileybury Malta. The School has in place an overarching Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy. This Equal Opportunities Policy should be read in conjunction with the School's EDI Policy.
- 1.2 The School recognises the benefits of having a diverse school community, with individuals who value one another, and the different contributions everyone can make. Pupils will be taught to value and respect others. The School is committed to being an equal opportunities school and is committed to equal treatment for all pupils, regardless of any of the "Protected Characteristics" set out in the Equality Act 2010, including race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or gender reassignment.
- 1.3 This policy applies specifically to pupils. For guidance and information relating to equal opportunities for staff, please see the School's Equal Opportunities Policy for Staff and its Staff Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy.

## **2. Aims**

- 2.1 The aims of this policy and the School's ethos as a whole are to:
  - a. communicate the School's commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities for its pupils;
  - b. eliminate unlawful discrimination on grounds of any of the protected characteristics;
  - c. promote equal treatment for all members of the School community;
  - d. create and maintain an open and supportive environment, free from discrimination;
  - e. foster mutual tolerance and positive attitudes so that everyone can feel valued within the School;
  - f. comply with the School's equality duties contained in the Equality Act 2010;
  - g. remove or help to overcome barriers for pupils where they already exist;
  - h. enforce that all discrimination on the grounds of a protected characteristic is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- 2.2 All members of the School's community are expected to comply with this policy and treat others with dignity at all times.
- 2.3 All parents are expected to support the aims of this policy and the School's ethos of tolerance and respect.
- 2.4 Staff at the School have a specific responsibility to set an appropriate standard of behaviour, to lead by example and to promote the aims and objectives of the School with regard to equal opportunities.

## **3. Regulatory framework**

- 3.1 This policy has been prepared to meet the School's obligations under the:
  - a. Equality Act 2010;
  - b. Children and Families Act 2014;
  - c. Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.
- 3.2 This policy has regard to the following statutory guidance and advice:

- a. Equality Act 2010 explanatory notes;
- b. Equality and Human Rights Commission Technical Guidance for Schools in England (2014);
- c. Working Together with Safeguarding Children (July 2018);
- d. Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2023).

3.3 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- a. Admissions Policy;
- b. Rewards, Behaviour and Sanctions Policy;
- c. Countering Bullying Policy;
- d. Serious Disciplinary Cases Procedure;
- e. Accessibility Plan;
- f. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

#### **4. Admissions**

- 4.1 The School treats every application for admission of a pupil in a fair, open-minded and equal way in accordance with this policy and the School's Admissions Policy. Although an academically selective School, each application will be considered on its merits in accordance with the School's selection criteria based on an applicant's ability and aptitude. The School accepts applications from, and admits, all prospective pupils irrespective of their gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief (or lack of religion or belief) or disability.
- 4.2 Parents must inform the School (and where appropriate provide a report from an Educational Psychologist or other relevant professional) when submitting their registration form as to any special circumstances relating to their child which may affect their child's performance in the admissions process and/or ability to fully participate in the education provided by the School so that we can consider what reasonable adjustments may be necessary to ensure that the child is not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other children. The School will not offer a place to a child with disabilities if, after reasonable adjustments have been considered, the School cannot adequately cater for or meet their needs.

#### **5. Educational services**

- 5.1 The School affords all pupils access to educational provision including all benefits, services, and facilities, irrespective of any protected characteristic (subject to our duty to make reasonable adjustments and considerations of safety and welfare). The School will not discriminate against a pupil by excluding them or subjecting them to any other detriment because of any protected characteristic.
- 5.2 The School will:
  - a. treat all members of the School community with respect and dignity and seek to provide a positive working, learning, pastoral and living environment free from discrimination;
  - b. endeavour to meet the needs of all children and ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination on the grounds of any protected characteristics;
  - c. ensure that pupils with English as an additional language and pupils with an Education Health Care Plan receive necessary educational and welfare support;

- d. monitor the admission and progress of pupils from different backgrounds;
- e. challenge inappropriate and unacceptable discriminatory behaviour by pupils and staff;
- f. encourage children to work and play freely and have respect for all other pupils irrespective of any protected characteristic;
- g. offer all pupils access to all areas of the curriculum and a full range of extra-curricular activities;
- h. work with parents and external agencies where appropriate to combat and prevent discrimination in School;
- i. ensure that it reviews, monitors, and evaluates the effectiveness of inclusive policies and practices;
- j. use available methods (such as the curriculum, assemblies and the PSHE and tutoring sessions) to:
  - i. promote tolerance of and respect for each other, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010;
  - ii. promote positive images and role models to avoid prejudice and raise awareness of related issues;
  - iii. encourage children to question and challenge assumptions and stereotypes in order to better understand discriminatory behaviours and bias.

5.3 The School recognises that discrimination may be direct, indirect, or arising from disability whether or not it was intentional. Harassment and bullying in all its forms (including cyberbullying) are unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Rewards, Behaviour and Sanctions Policy, and its Countering Bullying Policy.

## **6. Ethos**

6.1 The School's ethos is based on ethical values. The School is therefore inclusive and welcomes and respects the rights and freedoms of individuals from different religious and philosophical traditions subject to considerations of safety and welfare and the rights and freedoms of other members of the School's community.

6.2 The governing body, through the Senior Management Team, actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## **7. Requests for variation in the school uniform**

7.1 All pupils are required to wear the School's uniform. The Principal will consider requests from parents and pupils for variations to the uniform for reasons related to disability, race, gender reassignment and/or on religious grounds provided they are consistent with the School's Health and Safety Policy and that such requests are reasonable in all the circumstances including in light of the School's obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Otherwise, pupils are expected to wear school uniform in line with the uniform list.

7.2 Where there is uncertainty as to whether an item may be worn to School, parents are encouraged to discuss the matter with a member of staff, in advance.

## **8. Reasonable adjustments for pupils with disability**

- 8.1 The School has an ongoing duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability to ensure they do not suffer a substantial disadvantage in comparison with other pupils, including during the admissions process.
- 8.2 Where the School is required to consider its duty to make reasonable adjustments, it will consult with parents about what reasonable adjustments, if any, the School is able to make to avoid their child being put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to other pupils. The School will carefully consider any proposals for auxiliary aids and services in light of a pupil's disability and the resources available to the School.
- 8.3 The School has an Accessibility Plan in place which is available on request. This sets out the School's plan to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School's curriculum; improve the physical environment of the School for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the School; and improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

## **9. Adjustments for transgender pupils**

- 9.1 The School is committed to supporting transgender pupils and will make reasonable adjustments and arrangements for pupils undergoing gender reassignment. Such adjustments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **10. Monitoring and review**

- 10.1 The SMT regularly monitors and reviews the effectiveness of this policy and reports to Governors regularly (usually via the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee) on the policy's effectiveness in practice.

## **11. Breaches of this policy**

- 11.1 Pupils who are in breach of this policy may be sanctioned in accordance with the School's Rewards, Behaviour and Sanctions Policy.
- 11.2 A breach of this policy by a member of staff may lead to disciplinary action under the School's Staff Disciplinary Policy.
- 11.3 If a parent believes that a child has received less favourable treatment as a result of a protected characteristic, or if a parent feels that this policy has been breached in any way to a child's detriment, they are encouraged to raise the matter through the School's Complaints Procedure.

Version history		
Date	Reviewed by	Notes
September 2023	Deputy Head	Policy prepared for the 1 <sup>st</sup> year (Years 3-8)
September 2024	Deputy Head	Reviewed and updated; no material changes made
September 2025	Head	Reviewed and updated; no material changes made