

# Equality Duty



**Lealands**  
High School

Lealands High School

Equality Duty

January 2025

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## 1. Vision and Values

Lealands High School aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it;
- foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Lealands High School is committed to promoting diversity, equality of opportunity and community cohesion for all staff and students. We will provide a challenging and diverse approach to learning to support all our students to develop as members of society in which intellectual, practical, interpersonal and technical skills are all important. Our Equality Duty document sets out our vision and how we plan to achieve this in relation to all protected characteristics (as given in “The Equality Act 2010 and schools” DFE publication, May 2014). We work to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect in a safe and secure environment.

The core values which underpin our work are that:

All of our students, parents and staff are respected as individuals, taking account of race, sex, religion or belief; disability; sexual identity or orientation; gender identity or reassignment; being pregnant or having recently had a baby; marital or civil partnership status and age;

Lealands High School respects, values and celebrates the cultural and religious diversity in our school and wider community. We try to ensure that people from different groups are consulted and involved in decisions, for example, parents/carers through parent workshops and surveys and students through our Student Voice arrangements.

All of our students have the right to enjoy equal access to a high quality and relevant curriculum and recognise that for some, extra support is needed to help them achieve and be successful.

We will strive to provide support to individuals or groups who require something extra to meet their needs and understand that treating people equally does not always involve treating them exactly the same. Reasonable adjustments may also be made to ensure that, where possible, everyone can participate equally in school life.

We include parents and carers as an integral part of the school community and strive to involve them as much as possible.

## 2. Legislation and Guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

**The Equality Act 2010**, which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination.

**The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011**, which requires schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives.

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: **The Equality Act 2010 and schools**.

We welcome our specific duties to publish information about our school population; to explain how we have due regard for equality; and to publish equality objectives which show how we plan to tackle particular inequalities or disadvantages.

Meeting our duties to promote community cohesion, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students, supports how we meet the needs of different groups of students and how we foster good relations.

We welcome the emphasis in the Ofsted inspection framework on the importance of narrowing the gaps in achievement which affect, amongst others:

- students from certain races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- students who are supported by the student premium due to disadvantage
- students who are disabled
- students who have special educational needs;
- boys in certain subjects and girls in certain other subjects.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

The governing body will:

Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, students and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years.

Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the Headteacher.

The equality link governor is Stella Akaboye (Parent Governor). They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality and other relevant staff members every year to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed;
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document;
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training;
- Report back to the full governing body regarding any issues.

The Headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and students.
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors.

The designated member of staff for equality is Sam Ward. He will:

- Support the Headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and students.
- Meet with the equality link governor every year to raise and discuss any issues.
- Support the Headteacher in identifying any staff training needs, and deliver training as necessary.

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives.

#### **4. Eliminating Discrimination**

The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction and our principles are referred to during training for staff during the year and in organising events and provision.

The school has a member of staff for monitoring equality issues, and an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

#### **5. Advancing equality of opportunity.**

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. students with disabilities, or gay students who are being subjected to homophobic bullying).

Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim students to pray at prescribed times).

Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all students to be involved in the full range of school societies).

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

Publish attainment data each academic year showing how students with different characteristics are performing.

Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information.

Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying).

Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own students.

#### **6. Fostering good relations.**

The school aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

Promoting acceptance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in our Religion and Society lessons and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, students will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures.

Holding weekly assemblies following a planned schedule dealing with relevant issues. Students will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite

external speakers to contribute.

Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of students within the school. For example, our school student voice group has representatives from different year groups and is formed of students from a range of backgrounds. All students are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures.

We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach.

## **7. Equality considerations in decision making.**

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the school considers whether the trip:

- cuts across any religious holidays;
- is accessible to students with disabilities;
- has equivalent facilities for boys and girls.

The duty to have 'due regard' to equality considerations means that whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, thought must be given to the equality implications.

Decision makers in Lealands are aware of the duty to have 'due regard' when making a decision or taking action and assess whether it may have implications for people with particular characteristics.

We consider equality implications before and at the time we develop policy and take decisions, not as an afterthought. We recognise the need to keep them under review on a continuous basis.

The PSED is integrated into the school's functions, and the analysis necessary to comply with the duty is carried out seriously and with an open mind.

We do not delegate this responsibility to anyone else.

The school recognises its duty to consider the equality implications of any major decision we make and to ask ourselves relevant questions related to equalities. Sam Ward (Deputy Headteacher) is responsible for ensuring this happens and is recorded.

## **8. Legal Background**

### **The duties that underpin our scheme**

Lealands High School is committed to meeting its public sector statutory duties as detailed below. We understand that the duties apply to service delivery and employment and staff management as well as policy development and implementation.

### **The Equality Act 2010**

This aims to harmonise the various Acts and Regulations (see below) which form the basis of antidiscrimination law in the UK. This Act replaces approximately 116 Acts of Parliament, regulations, and codes of practice.

## **9. School Context and Population Statistics (January 2025)**

### **The characteristics of our school: A brief description of our school and its community setting:**

- Lealands High School is an 11-16 foundation school which aims to retain its identity as

a Specialist Sports College. It is situated on a site with large playing fields just inside the Luton boundary, near to the open country of the Sundon Hills. The school's catchment area serves the Sundon Park, Hockwell Ring and Toddington Road areas on the northwest outskirts of the town.

- Luton is a multi-cultural and multi-faith area, with a wide diversity of ethnicities living in close proximity to one another. Lealands is, therefore, a highly diverse school characterised by a strong spirit of community and staff, and current and former students, and their families, recognise this special dimension. Every member of our school community feels a sense of belonging and is valued.
- Ours is an inclusive school which provides similar life opportunities for all learners regardless of their background. The diversity of heritage of all of our students is recognised and appreciated through the curriculum we are teaching and is evident in the students' learning as a part of every student's emerging and changing identity.
- There are currently 1031 students on roll, of which 489 (47%) are male and 542 (53%) are female.
- The proportion of students eligible for Pupil Premium funding currently stands at 35%. The catchment area of Lealands Highs includes areas that ranked between the 20% - 40% most deprived areas in the country in 2019.
- The proportion of students who have English as an Additional Language is 24%. • The proportion of students with a statement of special educational needs (EHCP) is 3% 22.5% of students are on our SEND register identified as having an identified special educational need or an EHCP.
- The proportion of White British students stands at 29.8% with significant numbers of students from the following ethnic groups: Black Caribbean 5.4%; White & Black Caribbean 6.5%, Black African 12.7% and Pakistani 8%
- Students enter the school with prior attainment below and in some years significantly below the national average.
- Absence rates are currently with persistent absence at 15.3%.

Official NEET figures for 2023 is 2.3%

#### CHARACTERISTIC BREAKDOWN JANUARY 2025

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	112	95	<b>207</b>
8	105	103	<b>208</b>
9	98	108	<b>206</b>
10	96	112	<b>208</b>
11	78	124	<b>202</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>1031</b>

Number of teaching staff	77	45 female and 32 male
Number of associate staff	55	49 female and 6 male
Number of governors	6	4 female and 2 male
Disabled staff (registered)	0	

### Ethnic breakdown of student population

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total	%
Any other Black background	1	0	2	2	2	7	0.7%
Any other ethnic group	8	8	1	6	4	27	2.6%
Any other mixed background	5	3	9	8	9	34	3.3%
Bangladeshi	10	11	10	9	15	55	5.3%
Black - African	27	22	28	30	24	131	12.7%
Black Caribbean	13	9	12	10	12	56	5.4%
Gypsy/Roma	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1%
Indian	11	12	7	3	6	39	3.8%
Other Asian	6	5	12	7	5	35	3.4%
Pakistani	14	17	11	20	21	83	8.1%
Refused	3	10	1	10	4	28	2.7%
White - British	65	68	60	56	59	308	30.0%
White - Irish	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.3%
White and Asian	6	5	5	4	8	28	2.7%
White and Black African	2	1	3	7	4	17	1.7%
White and Black Caribbean	15	16	17	11	9	68	6.6%
White Other	20	20	27	23	19	109	10.6%
Total	207	208	207	206	201	1029	

## STUDENT LANGUAGE BREAKDOWN

Home Language	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL	%
Afar-Saho	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Akan (Fante)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Akan (Twi/Asante)	0	1	0	2	1	4	0.4%
Akan/Twi-Fante	4	6	2	2	3	17	1.7%
Albanian/Shqip	3	2	0	6	1	12	1.2%
Amharic	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Arabic	5	2	1	2	5	15	1.5%
Bengali	9	9	7	6	13	43	4.3%
Bulgarian	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Caribbean Creole English	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1%
Dari Persian	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2%
Ebira	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
English	123	124	132	122	114	615	60.9%
French	2	1	0	1	0	4	0.4%
Georgian	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Greek	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.2%
Gujarati	1	4	3	0	1	9	0.9%
Hindi	1	1	1	1	0	4	0.4%
Igbo	2	0	0	1	0	3	0.3%
Italian	0	1	4	3	3	11	1.1%
Kurdish	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Latvian	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Luganda	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1%
Malayalam	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Ndebele*	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.2%
Nzema	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Other Language	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.2%
Other than English	0	0	7	13	5	25	2.5%
Panjabi	4	3	5	1	4	17	1.7%
Pashto/Pakhto	2	2	4	0	3	11	1.1%
Polish	9	4	10	7	8	38	3.8%
Portuguese	0	1	0	2	1	4	0.4%
Romanian	11	12	3	4	1	31	3.1%
Romany/English Romanes	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.4%
Russian	0	0	1	1	1	3	0.3%
Shona	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.2%
Shona*	1	0	1	2	0	4	0.4%
Sindhi	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Slovak*	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Somali	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.2%
Spanish	1	0	3	1	0	5	0.5%
Swahili/Kiswahili	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Swedish	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%

Tamil	4	2	4	4	2	16	1.6%
Turkish	0	2	0	1	0	3	0.3%
Urdu	12	12	7	14	17	62	6.1%
Urhobo-Isoko	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1%
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Wolof	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Yoruba	5	4	4	4	2	19	1.9%

### Religious Character – Lealands is non-denominational

RELIGION	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL	%
Muslim	48	52	39	50	65	253	24.6%
Hindu	7	7	7	4	2	27	2.6%
Christian	70	63	75	75	54	337	32.8%
Other Faith	1	0	0	2	0	3	0.3%
No Religion	69	65	63	62	59	318	30.9%
Roman Catholic	6	14	16	12	13	61	5.9%
Sikh	5	5	5	0	6	21	2.0%
Refused	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Methodist*	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.3%
Jehovah's Witness	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.2%
Jain	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.1%

### SEN Register

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total	%
<b>EHCP</b>	7	3	7	9	5	31	3%
<b>SEN Support</b>	58	34	45	29	35	201	19.5%
<b>Total</b>	65	37	52	38	40	232	22.5%

### Special Educational Needs Type

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
<b>Autistic Spectrum Disorder</b>	3	3	8	6	8	28
<b>Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulty</b>						
<b>Hearing Impairment</b>				1		1
<b>Moderate Learning Difficulty</b>	8	7	6	13	11	45
<b>No Specialist Assessment</b>	8	1	1	1	7	17
<b>Other Difficulty/Disability</b>	12	10	8	5	7	42
<b>Physical Disability</b>		1	4	1	3	9

<b>Severe Learning Difficulty</b>				1		1
<b>Social, Emotional and Mental Health</b>	30	12	20	16	19	97
<b>Specific Learning Difficulty</b>	5	7	8	3	6	29
<b>Speech, Language or Communication Need</b>	15	11	21	11	13	71
<b>Vision Impairment</b>				2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	81	52	76	60	75	342

<p><b>Significant partnerships, extended provision, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Lea Partnership</b> <i>(Queen Elizabeth School, Stopsley High School, Icknield High School, Woodlands Secondary School and Ace @ The Hub)</i></p> <p><b>Lea Springs</b> <i>(Parklea Primary, Pirton Hill Primary, The Meads Primary School and Legrave Primary, Waulud Primary)</i></p> <p><b>Lumen Partnership</b> <i>(Legrave Primary, The Meads Primary, Waulud Primary and Hadrian)</i></p> <p><b>North Area Partnership</b> <b>University of Bedfordshire</b> <b>Chiltern Trust</b> <b>Teach first</b></p>
<p><b>Awards, accreditations, specialist status</b></p>	<p>Sports College Specialist Status Arts Mark Careers Mark Duke of Edinburgh Accredited Centre Leading Parent Partnership Award</p>

## 10. The Protected Characteristics

It establishes nine strands, to be known as the nine protected characteristics. These are, in alphabetical order (7 apply to students and 9 apply to staff\*):

- a) Age.\*
- b) Disability.
- c) Race.
- d) Sex.
- e) Gender reassignment.
- f) Religion or belief.
- g) Marriage and civil partnership.\*
- h) Pregnancy or maternity.
- i) Sexual orientation

The Equality Act protects people from discrimination on the basis of protected

characteristics. Every person has several of the protected characteristics, so the Act protects everyone against unfair treatment.

The information below is a summary of how we have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Please contact us if you would like to see copies of any of our school policies.

In this document we provide some more detailed information and examples in relation to the duty for the protected characteristics of: sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and gender identity/reassignment. We have due regard to the duty in relation to age and marital status as well as pregnancy or maternity where these are known to us, but also in tackling discriminatory views and promoting equality regarding these characteristics.

## **b) Disability**

We have a statutory duty to carry out our functions with due regard to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- eliminate disability-related harassment;
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- encourage disabled people's participation in public life and activity;
- take steps to take into account people's disabilities;
- foster good relationships.

### **Summary Information (23/24)**

We currently have 31 students with an ECHP (3% of the cohort). There are 201 students on the SEN Support register (19.5% of the cohort). The percentage of students on the SEN support register is above the national average.

In 2023/24 attendance for these groups was below the whole school figure – (86.% for students on the SEN register compared with 92% for students not on the SEN register).

The number of exclusions allocated to these groups in 2021/22 was above the whole school figure. The exclusions percentage for SEND students was 22% compared with 5% for students not on the SEN register.

### **How we advance Equality of Duty**

Our SENCO, Student Support Team and Medical Officer work closely together and with parents/carers to ensure equality and meet the needs of disabled students and those with special educational needs.

We support disabled learners and those with special educational needs by meeting their individual needs.

We take reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled students and those with special educational needs are not put at a disadvantage compared to other students. We provide laptops, coloured paper or other relevant resources for students with visual impairments or are identified as being in need of specialist resources to help them achieve.

We involve disabled learners, their families and disabled staff in the changes and improvements we make and consult them on issues affecting them, rather than relying on people acting on their behalf.

We carry out accessibility planning for disabled students that increases the extent to

which they can participate in the curriculum, improves the physical environment of the school and increases the availability of accessible information to disabled students. BSF refurbishment has facilitated this.

We provide targeted intervention for students who are working below national expectations through intervention programmes like Reading Wise and 1-1 maths and literacy and numeracy Support.

We plan and deliver lessons across the curriculum that promote common values and to help students to value differences and challenge prejudice and stereotyping in relation to disability. Religion and Society scheme of work and our Tutor Group programme includes modules related to discrimination, stereotyping, equality, and rights and responsibilities.

We aim to include all students fully in our curriculum and activities so that they work alongside one another positively developing understanding and fostering good relationships.

We work proactively with students to engage them in their social, moral and spiritual development so that they leave Lealands prepared for positive interaction and engagement with disabled members of the community in adult life. Particularly strong at Lealands is the work students do to promote community cohesion and generally strengthen community links, Christmas shoebox appeals and charitable work.

The work we do across the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities enables all students to learn about the experiences of disabled people and the discriminatory attitudes they often experience.

Students on the SEN register are closely supported by the Senco and other members of the support team in order to address the concerns related to attendance and exclusions.

We tackle prejudices and any incidents of bullying based on disability, in line with our school policies.

### **Impact and Next Steps**

- We need to continue to improve the attendance of students on the SEN register and reduce the number of exclusions for these cohorts.
- We need to ensure that our whole school teaching and learning initiatives fully benefit students who are on the SEN register.
- We need to further monitor the participation of students with SEND in extra-curricular activities to ensure equal participation. We also need to ensure that students on the SEN register have opportunities for leadership as part of the Student Leadership initiative.
- As new technologies become available we need to ensure that we utilise them to support students with particular needs. We are continuing to roll our plans to introduce access to chrome books for all students. We will need to ensure that staff are aware of how to support students with visual and hearing impairments through staff updates and training as necessary.

Ofsted 2023 commented that pupils learn a well-considered curriculum. They benefit from leaders' high expectations of their learning. This includes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These pupils receive strong support. When pupils need extra help, this is effective. As a result, they build up their knowledge well.

### **c) Race (including ethnicity and EAL learners)**

We have a statutory duty to promote race equality with due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- promote equality of opportunity;
- foster good relations between people of different racial groups.

#### **Summary Information (2023/24)**

The number of students identified as EAL is currently 250 (24% of the cohort). 720 of our cohort (70%) are from an Ethnic Minority background. This is significantly greater than the national average. Significant groups include Black African (12.7%), White other (10.6%) and Pakistani (8.1%).

In 2023/24, the number of exclusions per student achieved by most ethnic groups is also broadly in line or lower than the whole school figure. However, in 2023/24, there remains a slightly larger proportion of students within the Mixed Black and White Caribbean group who were excluded compared to the proportion of the school cohort. The exclusion figures for Black and White Caribbean students was 11.7%.

- The 2023/24 percentage for exclusion of students of groups of any black ethnicity is 6.4% which is a reduction on previous years.
- The 2023/24 percentage for exclusion of White British students is 13.3%
- The 2023/24 percentage for exclusions of students with an ethnicity other than White British is 6.2%.

Ofsted 2023 commented 'it is a diverse community. Pupils new to the school say, 'It is like joining a family'. Pupils from many backgrounds mix successfully and happily. Pupils learn through the curriculum about different parts of society. This helps them to express mature attitudes about areas of difference, such as race or disability.'

#### **How we advance Equality of Opportunity**

There is one member of staff with overall responsibility for EAL and others who give direct support to these learners. Students identified as requiring support are given a comprehensive induction programme to the school and are allocated a peer buddy. They are expected to participate in lessons with the rest of the school population as soon as possible. Support is then provided in the base room and in-class to enable them to achieve at the highest possible level in English and in other subjects. Some EAL students have been provided with a pocket translator to use when required. Staff have been familiarized with the expected progression of EAL students through our CPD programme.

We understand and respect the values of the differing races that make up our school and wider community. We encourage the development of a greater understanding of all races and deeper respect for their differences and similarities. Within the Humanities curriculum there are modules relating to the problems of racism, discrimination and prejudice and the religious and non-religious responses to these issues. The unit of work encourages students to think about and discuss discrimination and prejudice. There are modules related to protest movements, and the rights of individuals in relation to discrimination.

Value for the month posters are displayed in each classroom and this is an opportunity for students to engage with a range of global issues. Black History Month is recognised within the school calendar with students and teachers organising assemblies in order to raise awareness. Assemblies also include themes based on religious festivals and events in the calendar.

At tutor time we have checking-in and checking-out which is inclusive and encourages the sharing of experiences, spiritual reflection and celebrates the diversity of our cultures. Each year group also has Character and Culture days each week to discuss issues related to how students live together and get the best from each other and themselves. We also use assembly time to foster good relationships with different ethnic groups.

### **Impact and Next Steps**

Students from all ethnic groups mix very well at Lealands which is very noticeable throughout the school day. Our careful monitoring of groups of students within the school keeps us well informed about attitudes to learning and progress. We are clear about the groups of students who need enhanced support.

62 demerits were reported for racist incidents in 2023/24 which represents 0.001% of all demerits. Racist incidents are very rare and are discussed in the progress, well-being and behaviour team meetings to ensure that each individual report to ensure that they are dealt with according to policy. An Anti-racism policy is in place with a flow chart for staff to follow when racist incidents are reported.

The school will continue to monitor closely the impact that exclusions have on individuals and groups and to implement strategies to try to reduce exclusions ensuring that no group is disadvantaged.

### **d) Sex**

We have a statutory duty to promote sex equality with due regard to the need to:

- • eliminate unlawful sex discrimination;
- • promote equality of opportunity;
- • foster good relations between women and men, girls and boys.

We currently have 543 girls (52%) and 485 boys (48%) on roll. Attendance for these groups is 93% for girls and 92% for boys.

There was a difference in the percentage of exclusions given to girls (30 exclusions in 2023/24– 5.5%) and boys (57 exclusions in 2023/24 – 11.7%).

### **How we advance equality of opportunity**

The school provides opportunities to reflect on moral dilemmas and stereotyping through the taught curriculum and to develop a greater understanding through the tutor and assemblies programme. In Religion and Society lessons in year 7 students explore fairness in society. The taught curriculum supports students to develop their understanding of groups that can be discriminated against and the history associated with this such as the Suffragettes.

We actively seek opportunities to promote successful role models through programmes such as speakers for schools, visitors in assemblies and speakers at presentation evening. An example is our assembly celebrating International Women's Day.

We review our curriculum carefully to ensure that it meets the needs of all students

and to understand patterns of subject choices so that these can be challenged where there appears to be a gender bias.

We actively promote role models of men and women in all careers through displays and our taught careers programme to break-down stereotypes and promote equality. Each year we hold a careers fair for students in all years groups.

We ensure that our visual materials demonstrate boys and girls participating in the wide range of opportunities available at the school and actively seek to avoid stereotyping and the promotion of traditional roles.

We provide a wide range of opportunities for both sexes to work, socialise, play and participate in extracurricular activities with and alongside each other.

Our RSHE programme ensures that good relationships are understood and promoted. We are keen to develop further opportunities to engage with projects around healthy relationships and our Safeguarding Leads ensure that relevant agencies are signposted to students.

One of the key themes that we have incorporated into our school system is the development of Students Leaders. We have an established Senior Student Leadership team within the school and we are developing leadership opportunities for students across all aspects of school life including Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Mental Health Ambassadors, Sports Leaders, Language Leaders and Numeracy and Literacy Leaders.

### **Impact and next steps**

The school works hard to ensure that pregnancy and maternity do not lead to discrimination and that adjustments are made as appropriate to try and ensure equality of opportunity.

A quality RSHE programme is delivered via the Humanities Department to years 7 to 10 coordinated by the Director of Faculty with support from the Deputy Headteacher.

Each year, parents have the opportunity to comment on our RHSE curriculum as part of regular consultation.

We are keen for both boys and girls to benefit from our teaching and learning initiatives across all year groups. The development of Student Leadership opportunities across the school will also be monitored to ensure that opportunities are available and taken up by both boys and girls. We will continue to closely monitor patterns in demerits and exclusions and learn from what this tells us about boys' attitudes to learning.

Behaviour incident analysis shows that sexual incidents are extremely rare. If incidents do occur they are dealt with promptly and effectively in line with the whole school behaviour policy. Related incidents are discussed in the Progress, Well-being and Behaviour team meetings to ensure that each individual report is dealt with according to policy.

### **f) Religion and Belief**

We have a duty to carry out our functions with due regard to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- promote good relationships;
- eliminate religious-related harassment.

### **Summary Information**

There are 11 different religious groups declared within our school population under the category of religion. 32.8% of students are Christian, 30.9% have no religion, 24.6% are Muslim and 5.9% are Roman Catholic.

## **How we advance equality of opportunity**

We value the place of faith and belief as well as the views of those with no religious belief. Students are encouraged to explore the beliefs of others through the taught curriculum and to develop greater understanding through the tutor and assemblies programme. Students are encouraged to share their beliefs and show respect for those of others. One example of this is through our 'check in/check out' sessions during tutor time on Mondays and Fridays. The school provides opportunities to celebrate diverse beliefs through displays relating to a range of religious festivals. A room is made available for prayer so that students and staff may practice their beliefs appropriately in the school context. All students learn about the traditions of the major World religions in their RS lessons.

We ensure that opportunities are available to all and where there is a faith based reason for non-participation we make sensible and appropriate adjustments in consultation with parents/carers. We provide role models and are fortunate to have staff from a range of faiths and none.

We ensure that our published literature, displays, prospectus and website demonstrate the fully inclusive nature of the school promoting positive images and equality of all people from different faiths and backgrounds. Prejudice and discrimination are challenged through work within Religion and Society as well as other areas of the school curriculum.

During tutor time and assemblies students are encouraged to develop their understanding of each other and specific attention is made to our religious diversity and shared values. We understand our duty around collective worship of a broadly Christian nature. This is achieved through the assembly and tutor programmes, where values and morals are explored from a range of religious and non-religious viewpoints.

### **Impact and next steps**

Evidence from lesson observations as well as the way students act and behave towards each other around school indicate that students are extremely mature and accepting of each other, whatever their religion or belief. Students enjoy learning about each other's beliefs, and engage in discussions with interest and maturity.

Ofsted 2017 commented that Lealands is "an inclusive school, where there are high expectations of what all students can achieve, and where every individual student receives strong levels of support, guidance and care. As a result, almost all students, including those who are disadvantaged and the most vulnerable, move successfully to the next stage of their education or employment."

#### **i) Sexual Orientation and Gender Re-assignment**

We have a duty to carry out our functions with due regard to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- promote good relationships ;
- eliminate harassment.

### **Summary Information**

In relation to the age of students at the school, although uncommon for the school to be aware of sexual orientation it is becoming more regular and in the last 3 years there has been a larger number of students who have been more open about their sexual orientation or identified as non-binary and transgender. Where students choose to make this known, we ensure that we have due regard to our duties and work hard to ensure that they feel fully

included in school life and that they are in no way discriminated against. Where a student or member of staff is in the process of gender-reassignment we make appropriate adjustments to support them to avoid discrimination and be able to participate fully in school life.

### **How we advance equality of duty**

We are conscious that at this young age, a number of students may be struggling with or uncertain about their own gender identity and sexual orientation so we provide counseling and sign-posting to appropriate agencies.

We tackle all instances of homophobic bullying in line with our school policies and these are recorded and monitored. IN 23/24 there were 29 demerits given for homophobic/transphobic incidents

We ensure that students and staff are free to express their sexuality without fear of discrimination or prejudice.

We listen to the views of students and the LBGTQ+ community to ensure that they have a voice and act upon suggestions to promote awareness, understanding and a positive experience within the school population.

We promote acceptance and understanding through positive successful role models in the taught curriculum of people who are of a range of sexual orientations including the exploration of the range of Islamic views and Christian views on homosexuality.

We ensure all staff and students use appropriate language and show respect to one another so as not to denigrate any individual or group on the basis of their sexual orientation.

We deal with stereotyping and prejudice within our taught curriculum; particularly in History, and Religion & Society.

We seek to support individuals as appropriate and we will listen to students and staff so that we can act where necessary to foster and achieve good relations.

The Director of Humanities oversees and reviews the content of the RSHE programme each year with the support of the Deputy Headteacher and feedback from teaching staff, members of the safeguarding team and students.

### **Impact and next steps**

Concerns related to equality and diversity incidents are rare. Incidents related to equality and diversity are discussed and dealt with by the Pastoral Team. If they do occur they are dealt with promptly and effectively according to the school behaviour policy.

This is an area that needs further discussion in terms of our policies and procedures given the increase in the number of students affected.

Some students have requested more is done to actively promote the school as welcoming of all and we will be developing this more through displays and more extensive work and celebrations during Pride month and with enhanced work from our Equality student leaders.

## **11. Lealands High School Equality Objectives**

The Equality Act 2010 requires us to publish specific and measurable equality objectives. Our equality objectives are based on our analysis of data and other information. Our equality objectives focus on those areas where we have agreed to take action to improve equality and tackle disadvantages.

### **Objective 1**

*To eradicate the use of racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and sexist language by students in the school.*

#### **Why have we chosen this objective?**

There is evidence from behaviour records that the use of racially inappropriate language has increased especially on some of the social media platforms that students use.

#### **To achieve this objective we plan to:**

- To ensure that our Anti-Racism Policy is rigorously adhered to and that we continue to educate students about the discriminatory behaviour, hate crime and the impact that language has on others.
- Regularly revisit this issue in assemblies and communications with students alongside coverage in the taught curriculum.

### **Objective 2**

*Continue to review our policies and practices to ensure that staff and students are not disadvantaged based on their sexual orientation*

#### **Why have we chosen this objective?**

Over the last 2 years there has been an increase in students identifying/presenting as LGBTQ+ and we need to ensure that our policies are reviewed and respond to the needs of this group given the changing situation.

#### **To achieve this objective we plan to:**

- Gather the views of students and staff regarding our policies and practices.
- Discuss at Senior Leadership Team Level the systems that might make a difference to this group.
- Increase training for staff around inclusive language and practices

### **Objective 3**

*Actively close gaps in attainment and achievement between all groups of students and in particular students with special educational needs and disabilities.*

#### **Why have we chosen this objective?**

There is a clear attainment gap between these groups that we aim to close. Data also shows gaps in attendance, attitude to learning and behaviour. As an inclusive school, we recognise the need for adjustments to be made appropriately to ensure students with SEN and disabilities achieve as well as possible and participate fully.

#### **To achieve this objective we plan to:**

This is written into our whole school Achieving Excellence Plan and data is monitored by members of the Senior Leadership Team who work directly with the pastoral team, the attendance officer and the EWO. Specific actions are written into the Achieving Excellence plan to address the attainment gap evident with these groups.