



Davenant Foundation School

Equality Policy

Last Reviewed: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026

This policy has been reviewed and to the best of our knowledge we do not feel that it impacts on any group or individuals' equality rights within our school community

POLICY DETAILS

Policy Name	Equality Policy	Committee Responsible	Standing
Status	MANDATORY	Committee Person i/c	Jennifer Dennison
Produced by	Deborah Lake	First Agreed	
Date Produced	January 2013	Last Review Date	December 2025
References		Next Review Date	December 2026

Why we have developed this Equality Policy

This Equality Policy for Davenant Foundation School brings together all previous policies, schemes and action plans around equality including those that we had previously for Race, Gender and Disability. It includes all the protected characteristics: age (for staff only), disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation covered under the Equality Act 2010, as well as other aspects which have the potential to discriminate against or to devalue any individuals within our community. We are further committed to the development of cohesive communities both within our school's physical boundaries and within our local, national and global environments. Our school embraces the aim of working together with others to improve children's educational and wellbeing outcomes, and notes the rights set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our Equality Policy is inclusive of our whole school community – pupils/students, staff, parents/carers, visitors and partner agencies - who we have engaged with and who have been actively involved in and contributed to its development. The purpose of this Policy is to set out how our practice and policies have due regard to the need to:

- **eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;**
- **advance equality and equity of opportunity and**
- **foster good relations between different groups**

It explains how we aim to listen to and involve pupils, staff, parents and the community in achieving better outcomes for our children and young people.

Our school within the wider context

At Davenant, the data shows that on the whole we are comparable on a number of characteristics with the national data. However, the number of families who claim free school meals is considerably lower at Davenant and the number of our black African students is higher, particularly in comparison with other local schools.

At Davenant Foundation School, the national data shows that attendance is above the national average. Attainment data at Davenant shows above national average attainment for all groups including those with protected characteristics.

Overall aims of our Equality Policy

Our aims for our Equality Policy are reflected fully in our School Mission Statement and our commitments and values.

Mission Statement

‘At Davenant we seek to grow in and reflect the love of God in all aspects of our community, where all individuals, being nurtured in mind, body and spirit, will be prepared for their role in a changing world.’

Whole School Values

Compassionate

To encourage and show concern for others whilst displaying kindness and honesty.

Determined

The desire to succeed in school and life with energy commitment and diligence, showing persistence.

Open-minded

The willingness to be quick to listen and slow to speak; accepting each other’s differences and new ideas.

Respectful

To show fairness and consideration through acting in a thoughtful and understanding manner.

Inclusive

Displaying tolerance and acceptance of different religions, denominations, race, age abilities and sexuality and gender identity.

We intend to achieve equality by reflecting the above statement and commitments in all that we do by seeking;

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- To promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community.
- To promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities and ethnic origins.

Our approach

We seek to embed equality of access, opportunity and outcome for all members of Davenant. We actively seek out opportunities to embrace the following key concepts:

- Shared Humanity - we identify commonality, shared values, aspirations and needs which underpin our approach to equality. We value our fundamental similarities and universality
- Valuing difference and diversity - we appreciate the richness within our differences and look for ways of celebrating and understanding them better
- Interdependence, interaction and influence - we recognise that, as they evolve, distinct cultures, beliefs and lifestyles will impact on and inform each other
- Social cohesion within our school and within our local community – we promote a sense of ethos and common purpose that creates unity in and around the school without promoting uniformity - we all are different

- Excellence - we aim to inspire and recognise high personal and collective achievement throughout our community, the UK and the wider world. Excellence is to be found everywhere.
- Personal and cultural identity - we provide opportunities to explore and value the complexity of our personal and cultural identities
- Fairness and social justice - we seek to develop our understanding of the inequality that exists in society and explore ways of individually and collectively promoting a more equitable society.

Our Vision Statement about Equality

Davenant Foundation School seeks to foster warm, welcoming and respectful environments, which allow us to question and challenge discrimination and inequality, resolve conflicts peacefully and work and learn free from harassment and violence. We recognise that there are similarities and differences between individuals and groups but we will strive to ensure that our differences do not become barriers to participation, access and learning and to create inclusive processes and practices, where the varying needs of individuals and groups are identified and met. We therefore cannot achieve equality for all by treating everyone the same. We will build on our similarities and seek enrichment from our differences and so promote understanding and learning between and towards others to create cohesive communities. Our aim is to have an equitable community.

Our Duties

We recognise and accept our equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and have sought to involve the whole school community in the process in order to ensure better outcomes for all. We will ensure we identify opportunities for promoting our vision, the key concepts and our duties on equality legislation across all aspects of school life. These opportunities are likely to include all or some of the following, dependent on our current priorities:

- The engagement, participation and involvement of a broad and diverse range of children, young people, their parents and partner agencies
- Induction to the school for new students, staff, governors and others engaged in work at the school
- The development of school policies
- The school's arrangements for working with other agencies
- Preparation of pupils for the next phase of education
- Development of the site with particular priority given to accessibility
- Within the curriculum the schools seek to celebrate, and promote the study of, diverse ideas.

The Roles and Responsibilities within our school Community

Our governing body will:

- Designate a governor with specific responsibility for Equality
- Ensure that the objectives arising from the policy are part of the School Development Plan (SDP)
- Support the Headteacher in implementing any actions necessary
- Engage with parents and partner agencies about the policy when necessary
- Evaluate and review the policy annually.

Our Headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff, parents/carers, pupils/students and visitors and contractors are engaged in work related equality
- Oversee the effective implementation of the policy

- Ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the policy
- Develop partnerships with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available
- Ensure that the Senior Leadership Team is kept up to date with any development affecting the policy or actions arising from it

Our Senior Leadership Team will:

- Have responsibility for supporting other staff in implementing this Policy
- Provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to the Policy
- With the Headteacher, provide advice/support in dealing with any incidents/issues
- Assist in implementing reviews of this policy as detailed in the SDP

Our School Staff will:

- Be involved in the development of key aspects of the Policy
- Be fully aware of the Equality Policy and how it relates to them
- Understand that this is a whole school issue and support the Equality Policy
- Make known any queries or training requirements

Our Pupils/Students will:

- Be involved in the development of key aspects of the Policy and will understand how it relates to them, appropriate to age and ability
- Be expected to act in accordance with the Policy
- Be encouraged to actively support the Policy (through assemblies, thought for the day and active celebration of community achievement and successes.)

Our Parents/Carers will:

- Be given accessible opportunities to become involved in the development of key aspects of the Policy
- Have access to the Policy through a range of different media appropriate to their requirements
- Be encouraged to actively support the Policy
- Be encouraged to attend any relevant meetings and activities related to the Policy
- Be informed of any incident related to this Policy which could directly affect their child

Relevant voluntary or community groups and partner agencies will:

- Be encouraged to support the Policy

How we Developed and How we Will Continue to Monitor our Policy - Participation and Involvement

The development of this policy has involved the whole of our school community. We involve and listen to what they have to say, including people from broad and diverse backgrounds and of different abilities, taking account of all the protected characteristics listed under the Equality Act 2010.

Our Pupils/Students

It is through our school council and our Diversity group that we access our students' views regarding equality. We also use questionnaires and focus groups. Davenant values the views and opinions of its students.

Many of our protected groups are accessed directly through their Annual Reviews, One-to-One meetings with their HoYs, SSP meetings with their lead practitioner and their PEP meetings.

Our School Governors

The full governing body is regularly invited to make a contribution during the annual policy review process.

Parents/Carers

The parents' views are accessed when necessary.

On-going Monitoring and Review:

Each of these groups' views will be sought on a regular basis through questionnaires, Home-School Links meetings, Student Council meetings, one to one interviews and annual reviews.

How we Developed and How we will Continue to Monitor our Policy - Using information

We use data and other information about our school, and produce an annual equality impact statement as a common-sense measure to determine the effects of a policy, practice or project on different groups.

Please see the attached Accessibility Plan. This will show the school's focus and development in striving to achieve equality for all.

We work in partnership with our local Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and monitor behaviour and attendance through this group. We also work in partnership with our local authority receiving and offering support to those hard to place students and those who need alternative education. We work closely with a number of different boroughs and counties in relation to looked after children. As a Christian Ecumenical School we work in partnership with a number of our local churches and Clergy. This provides us with advice support and guidance whilst also allowing us to use the resources available to us from the wider community.

These links provide us with access to the views and opinions of some of our minority groupings as well as some specific skills that these groups offer.

Our Staff

This Equality Policy applies to all members of the school community – including staff. We comply fully with legislation which protects our staff from discrimination based on the protected characteristics. With regard to disability, we make such reasonable adjustments as are necessary to prevent a disabled person being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with people who are not disabled. This includes discrimination in relation to recruitment, terms and conditions, promotions, transfers, dismissals, training and employment practices (such as dress codes) and disciplinary procedures. We make efforts to ensure that the diversity of our workforce reflects that of our local community and wider society. In accordance with the Equality Act we do not enquire about the health of an applicant until a job offer has been made or require job applicants to complete a generic 'all encompassing' health questionnaire as part of the application procedure. We will ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and take seriously and act on incidents of harassment and discrimination recognising that our staff may be either victims or perpetrators.

We interpret our duties positively; take the necessary actions to remove barriers to inclusion and work hard to ensure a safe, positive and inclusive environment. Our staff team regularly receives training to help them understand their equality duties/and or the differing needs of protected groups within our school community. The attached Accessibility Plan is the mechanism by which we will organise training and summaries our priority actions.

Responding to prejudice-based incidents and bullying

We recognise that hate incidents or prejudice-based bullying behaviour is driven by negative assumptions, stereotypes or misinformation. These are then directed against an individual or group, based on difference (real or perceived), and linked to, for example, racism, homophobia, negative views of disabled people or sexism. We will take action to prevent, challenge and eliminate any such behaviour. We recognise that we as individuals and society often struggle with difference of any kind (perceived or actual), which can result in seizing upon the most visible sign of difference e.g. skin colour or disability. Through our school ethos and curriculum, we want our students to understand better the diversity that exists in society. We want to provide opportunities for them to explore the subtleties and complexities in order to prevent and respond to incidents and situations. We will address the experience, understanding the needs of the victim, the perpetrator, bystanders and the wider school community through our actions and responses.

Incidents of prejudice-based bullying or peer on peer abuse are taken seriously in the first place, they are investigated thoroughly and the outcomes are logged under specific headings. This is done to allow for on-going monitoring and analysis of these specific incidents. The consequences of these sorts of behaviours are significant and the seriousness of the punishments reflects the zero tolerance that Davenant shows to this type of behaviour. Clear reference is made to this in the rewards and consequences protocols.

Pupils are always supported and opportunities for them to seek advice and counselling are all readily available. A key member of staff is often identified to offer these students the support they need and mentoring can be arranged. In all incidents of this kind the parents/carers are informed unless it is deemed unsafe for school to do so. In such case, school will seek to provide further support

Implementation, Monitoring and Reviewing

This policy was published on the date of publication. It will be actively promoted and disseminated. The policy will be promoted through the school website and will be monitored and reviewed through Student Council Meetings. Implementation, monitoring and review are the responsibility of our Senior Leadership Team and our Equality Governor. The full governing body has agreed and published this policy which sets out our priorities and supports these with specific and measurable objectives.

We will report annually on the policy and analyse whether our policy and related objectives have furthered the aims of the general equality duty and in particular educational outcomes for all within our school community with reference to the protected groups.

Davenant Foundation School's Accessibility Plan - Disability Equality

ACTION PLAN 2024-2025

AREAS OF PRIORITY (as identified by DCSF)	TARGETS ADDITIONAL TARGETS	TIMEFRAME	PERSON WITH RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOME
Increasing the extent to which all people can and are encouraged to participate in the school curriculum, including each of the Protected Characteristics.	Due to the increase in the numbers of students who, for educational needs, cannot access the curriculum without additional support and/or alternative provision, it is our primary target to develop a programme of academic and social and emotional support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning support programme in place to support with access to the curriculum. Focussing on core subjects as well as revision skills and metacognitive practices. Employment of staff member to carry out research on MLD and alternative curriculums to students who are struggling to access mainstream curriculum in some or all areas. Research on MLD as a barrier to learning 	GWT in collaboration with the SLT team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to analyse the data for the Key Stage 3 years to identify those who need to access a personalised programme To develop an approach to ensuring support for English, Maths and Science To continue to review the use and deployment of the TA team to maximise their efficacy across the school. To continue to develop programmes of support for students with ASD and SEMH needs. To research and develop an alternative curriculum or study for students with MLD which will sit alongside the core curriculum and work to enhance student access and opening access to post-16 options.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a structured mental health provision and a system of referral. • To have a designated Mental Health Lead to supplement our pastoral support • To retrain mental health first aiders in key areas of staff • To continue to work with Mind West Essex as part of their mental health programme. • To monitor and review the new structure of School Medical Officers as part of health and mental well-being provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JDN//ACR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the designated Mental Health lead to be overseeing the process and delivery of mental health support. • To continue to work with MIND • To continue to work with Spark to life • To continue the relationship with the counsellor, Ruth. • Facilitating space for SPARK mentors to use facilities where parents have self-referred. • Referral system for the school nurse for support with low-level anxiety who are on the waiting list for CAMHS • To fully embed the work of the mental health team with the safeguarding team. • To continue to build relationships with external organisations.
<p>To provide opportunities for students to express their individual concerns and seek help with issues relating to the key characteristic areas including BME, LGBTQ+, disabilities hidden and visible and gender equality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing annually • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SENCO/SLG/Mental health team/ Diversity Lead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of a safe space during the week • On-going diversity meetings with the lead on diversity • Regular staff briefings and assemblies throughout the year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be intentional in identifying and reviewing the students who are included in the Protected Characteristics groups whenever data is being analysed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all protected characteristics are a natural part of our review process. To embed the national changes to PSHE curriculum. • 2024-2025 – key focus on BME and High on entry students identified through the examination data review process. Targeted in the development plan and identified with Governors. <p>Additional focus on Trauma Perceptive Practice, first session delivered whole school to all staff</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that parents are aware of support and provision available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLG/SENCO/Pastoral Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued signposting and information on the website in addition to information sent home via parent mail. Information evenings/school newsletters as needed.
Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which everyone, including each of the Protected Characteristics, can take advantage of education and associated services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further barriers to physical movement around the school to be identified and plans to address issues put in place. To ensure the maintenance of the lift. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premises manager/ premises Governor committee/SENCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater independence of movement around the school site for the whole community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heads of Department to plan, with their staff, the physical needs of students with particular focus on the timetable and access to subjects including researching and sourcing specialist equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing – June in preparation for the New Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HODs/HOYs/SLG/SENCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to learning for students with disabilities and a broad curricular offer.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heads of Year to plan, with their staff, the physical needs of students with regards to tutor areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going annually in July for the following year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOY/SENCO/ATE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of provision and improved independence for students.

Improving the delivery of information to everyone, including each of the Protected Characteristics groups

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance the Learning Support area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SME/JDN/JET/GWT/ATE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to look at the use of the Learning Support area to ensure ease of access and to maximise use. To develop specialist areas for the delivery of alternative MLD curriculum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heads of department to continue to plan, with their staff, the communication needs of students Access to Google Classroom and Talaxy Access for students to key handouts – particularly those with visual and/or Spelling difficulties SENCO to deliver regular updates and advice on all students under SEN register with targeted training where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HODs in conjunction with SENCO and JDN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater availability of information Improved access for students with learning disabilities. Google classroom has been a great benefit so far and staff are improving and developing the range of resources available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trip/Club/Activity organisers to plan, with their staff, the communication needs for students and parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JDN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure ease of access for all students to trips, clubs and visits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise students' awareness of some of the key equality issues that affects them and their peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATE/JDN/JET/JJI/RFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to use assemblies, thoughts for the day, PSHE curriculum, pastoral programmes to enhance whole community understanding of the issues related to equality. To provide a safe space to be with the support of the Diversity club

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore the use of digital devices to enhance the curriculum for those with learning difficulties i.e., chrome books. This can be done through departmental allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TTN/ALE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to learning for all students.
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