



## Gender Equality Statement

At Sackville we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for staff, pupils and all those receiving services from the school, irrespective of gender. The achievement of all pupils and students will be monitored on the basis of gender and we will use this data to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will aim to provide our pupils with a firm foundation which will enable them to fulfil their potential, regardless of gender or stereotypes. We will seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination against pupils and staff by adhering to our duties as an employer under the legislation. At Sackville, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

### Check list for school staff and governors

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#### Service Provision<sup>1</sup>-

- Is information collected on gender with regards to both pupils and staff? Is this information used to improve the provision of services?
  - Is pupil achievement monitored by gender? Are there trends or patterns in the data that may require additional action?
  - Are pupils of both sexes encouraged to participate in school life? How is this shown through representation in school events such as class assemblies and the school council?
  - Are pupils of both sexes given the same opportunities to participate in physical activity, both in and outside of school hours?
  - Is bullying and harassment of pupils monitored and is this information used to make a difference?
  - Are stereotypes in terms of gender actively challenged in both the class-room environment and in the playground?
  - Are pupils encouraged to consider career paths/occupations that are traditionally gender stereotyped?
  - Is the school environment as accessible and welcoming as possible to visitors of both sexes e.g. accessible to pushchairs? Are open evenings and other events which parents or carers attend held in an accessible part of the school?
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Are parents of both sexes encouraged to participate in their child's education e.g. attending parents' evening, taking up parent/ family learning courses, and assemblies?

Are governing bodies representative of the pupils, staff and local community that they serve?

### **Employer duties-**

As an employer you will need to ensure that you eliminate discrimination and harassment in your employment practice and actively promote gender equality within your workforce

Are gender aspects considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination?

Is bullying and harassment of staff monitored and is this information used to make a difference?

NOTE: The EOC Code of Practice on the Duty lists key employment issues that are usually the most common ones to be considered, these include:

- Recruitment
- Managing flexible working
- Managing parental and carers leave
- Managing pregnancy and return from maternity leave
- Sexual and sexist harassment
- Transsexual staff
- Grievance and disciplinary procedures
- Equal Pay
- Work based training opportunities

## **The Gender Equality Duty (GED)**

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### **What is it?**

The Government has introduced the Equality Act 2006 with the purpose of ensuring that people are treated fairly and equally (i.e. are not subject to discrimination). Within this Act a Gender Equality Duty was established for the public sector. The new legal Duty places a requirement on public bodies to be proactive and to promote gender equality within their service delivery and employment. It is recognised that public authorities can make an enormous contribution towards removing the barriers to equal opportunities that exist in society.

The legislation outlines both a General Duty and Specific Duties.

### **The General Duty**

The General Duty requires that every public authority in carrying out its functions should:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, taking active steps to comply with both the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act
- Take active steps to promote equality of opportunity between men and women when carrying out their functions and activities

### **The Specific Duties**

In addition, public bodies are required to comply with the Specific Duties which are:

- To produce and publish a Gender Equality Scheme (GES) identifying Gender Equality goals and actions to meet those goals
- To consult with employees and stakeholders in the development of the GES
- To monitor and review progress. The scheme will need to be reviewed every three years
- To publish an annual report on progress with the Action Plan
- To develop and publish an equal pay policy including measures to address promotion, personal development and occupational segregation
- To conduct and publish gender impact assessments of all legislation and major policy developments and publish their criteria for conducting such assessments

The act also makes provisions on prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment and the provision of goods, services, facilities, education, use and disposal of premises and the exercise of public functions.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the GED, there is a specific duty (as is also required for Race and Disability Equality) to ensure that current and future policies and practices do not discriminate against either sex, or maintain or lead to gender inequality.

To meet the Duty it is essential that gender impact assessments are undertaken and published for all policy developments and that the criteria for conducting such assessments are published. You will need to:

- Identify the aims of the policy or practice
- Collect evidence on the impact of policies on both sexes
- When new policies are being developed, assess their likely consequences for both sexes
- Alter or amend proposed policies so that they promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination
- Resource those changes appropriately

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring is necessary in order to identify that no adverse impact has taken place as a result of the implementation of a policy.

To meet the Gender Equality Duty, it is essential that aspects of school life are monitored to identify whether there is an adverse impact on children and young people. The following should be monitored:

- Achievement of pupils by gender
- Staff satisfaction levels by gender
- Distribution of staff pay scales

## **Involvement and consultation**

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Sackville has consulted with pupils, staff, trade unions and service users in the development of our Gender Equality Scheme.

## **Making things happen**

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In order to ensure that action is taken to meet the Gender Equality Duty, Sackville School has drawn up an action plan to make things happen, which outlines how the requirements of the Gender Equality Duty will be met. This action plan has been shaped in consultation with pupils, staff, trade unions, parents, and all those that we provide a service to as outlined in the previous section, and may include the good practice examples below.

## **Good practice examples**

The following examples have been taken from guidance issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission and schemes already prepared in other Local Authorities, and provide good practice suggestions on how gender equality can be promoted in a school environment.

- The Fathers and Reading Project- this is a good example of a service that tries to create positive male role models for school children. It provides opportunities for fathers to get involved in their children's education, and specifically to help them with their reading. Games and activities are used as a way of recruiting fathers and their children and developing physical contact.
- The Girls Into Sport Project- set up to try and address the reasons why some girls drop out of PE. There was particular emphasis on improving the health of young people through schools, and some of this improvement will be done by trying to increase the amount of physical education provided within schools.

## **This Statement is supported by the:**

Equality Policy and Objectives  
Disability Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan  
Race Equality Policy

## **Monitoring and reporting**

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It is important to monitor the impact of the action taken to ensure that progress is being made towards meeting the Gender Equality Duty, and to ensure that no adverse impact is occurring as a result of the actions.

The monitoring of the actions outlined in the action plan will be monitored in accordance with the specified timescales. If any adverse impacts are identified during the monitoring process, the action plan will need to be revised.

An annual report will be produced which outlines the progress of the Gender Equality Scheme and assesses the implementation of the action plan for effectiveness. This

report will be circulated to the Head-teacher and Governors, and the findings will be used to improve the Gender Equality Scheme and feed into future practice.

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**M Robson Summer 2010**  
**To be reviewed Summer 2018**

**Reviewed N Feist Summer 2014**