



BEAUFORT HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN

2025 - 2028

This policy is available in many different languages and formats including Welsh, electronic document, Braille etc. To get a copy and further information please contact

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Reviewed November 25

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Introduction

The School was established in 1993 when the previous Infant and Junior Schools amalgamated.

The School is funded by Blaenau Gwent local authority.

The school is governed by Beaufort Hill Primary School Governing Body. – Chair Mr. John Hillier.

There are currently 9 teachers, 12 Classroom support assistants, 2 administrative staff, 254 pupils.

School vision/ or principles

*To provide a stable, caring, healthy and happy environment in which children are stimulated to work and play together.

* To provide a broad, balanced and fully integrated curriculum to courage our children to become ambitious and capable learners.

* To provide a curriculum that is progressive, differentiated to every need and which encompasses the six areas of learning and experience.

* To emphasise cross-curricular opportunities to develop literacy, numeracy and digital competency.

* To help pupils acquire digital competency, relevant to our modern technological society.

* To help pupils develop lively, enquiring minds and become enterprising and creative contributors.

* To develop pupils' imagination and creativity through expressive arts.

* To lead pupils to appreciate the importance of their Welsh identity and the wider world to become ethically informed citizens.

* To instil respect for religious and moral values and to foster a caring attitude towards others.

* To foster a sense of respect, confidence and well-being to become healthy confident individuals.

This is the school's 1st Strategic Equalities Plan (SEP) - it builds upon the school's previous Disability Policy and Race Equality Scheme and sits above the school's Inclusion Policy etc. What was previously the school's Access Policy is covered by this Plan. This policy belongs to everybody and is relevant to all pupils, teaching and administrative staff, parents, carers, supporters and the local community.

The Equality Act 2010 gives us the framework for this plan. The Human Rights Act 1998, the Welsh Language Act 1993 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 are also relevant to this policy. This Plan was approved by the Governing Body date September 2021.

1 Equality vision and equality objectives

The Equality Act 2010 requires all schools to have equality objectives in place by April 2012. These objectives cover all following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and include the Welsh language in Wales. Actions to achieve these objectives are in the action plan at the end of this document and have been included as an initiative or action in School Improvement Plan.

To choose objectives for Beaufort Hill Primary School we:

- Discussed at schools council
- Consulted with parents
- Consulted with Staff
- Interested members of the local community
- Other special interest groups as considered appropriate
- Approved at Governors

These are the equality objectives we chose the first two of which link to our School Development Plan 2025.

- Reduce gaps in attainment between boys and girls and between other protected groups as identified in school performance data.
- Reduce gaps in levels of attendance between different protected groups as identified in school attendance data.
- Raise awareness of equality and diversity issues amongst pupils, staff and governors.

The following plan sets out our equality commitments. Actions are included in the Action Plan and the Strategic Equality Plan will be evaluated through the School Improvement Plan and the school Equality Self Evaluation Tool.

2 School strategies and equalities

Implementing the Strategic Equality Plan is one of the key objectives of the School Development Plan. Equalities implications will be identified in each school improvement objective. Progress on this plan is reported to the Governors annually and included in the School's Self Evaluation. The Plan will be reviewed within 4 years of setting the equality objectives in 2025.

3 The national equality agenda

The following pieces of legislation are at the heart of the equality agenda.

3.1 The Equality Act 2010

The 9 protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act include everybody: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act sets down Public Sector Duties that apply to all the school's functions:-

- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good community relations
- Eliminating discrimination

Specific public sector duties for Wales are set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, as issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.

3.2 The Human Rights Act 1998

Human Rights and equality are inextricably linked. Equality is treated as a fundamental human right, from the principle of equal respect for the inherent dignity of all people.

Article 14 of the Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination 'on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status'.

The words 'other status' have been held to cover, amongst other things, sexual orientation, illegitimacy, marital status, trade union membership, transsexualism, disability, carers and imprisonment.

Article 14 can only be used when attached to a complaint relating to another article of the Convention such as Article 3: right to life, liberty and security of person or Article 8: right to a private and family life, home and correspondence.

In some instances the Human Rights Act 1998 gives greater rights to people than other equalities legislation because it judges treatment against a fixed standard and does not rely on comparison between treatment of one group of people and another.

3.3 The Welsh Language Act 1993 & the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

The Welsh language has official status and belongs to all the people of Wales. The Welsh Language Measure puts the Welsh and English language on a basis of equality. The Welsh Language Education Scheme has been approved by Blaenau Gwent Council but will be superseded by Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 shortly and applies to all schools. The principles of the Scheme and this Plan are similar- in promoting equality of opportunity and good relations we will take the Welsh language into account alongside all the protected characteristics.

4 Pupils

4.1 A school for everyone

Beaufort Hill Primary School is open to everyone We will not discriminate in our admissions criteria, in providing education and access to any benefit, service or facility either directly or indirectly, against anyone with a protected characteristic.

We will not discriminate on the grounds of :

- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership

- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- and the Welsh language in Wales.

Age is the 9th protected characteristic. In a school context it applies to everybody except pupils.

Opportunities in our school will be of equally high standard for everyone.

The school's duty to our pupils goes beyond just the formal education. It covers all school activities such as extra-curricular and leisure activities, after-school and homework clubs, sports activities and school trips, as well as school facilities such as libraries and IT facilities etc.

The school has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. The duty is anticipatory. The school will ask disabled pupils whether they need any support or adjustments so that we are ready for them e.g. produce the lesson notes in large print or in an electronic format before the lesson. In some cases a disabled pupil may receive support under the special educational needs (SEN) framework under Part 4 of the Education Act 1993.

4.2 How we deliver equality

We will mainstream equality in providing education, access to benefits, service or facilities by making sure that people:

- Know the equality duties and the school's equality commitments
- Can access all the benefits of being at the school
- Know how to ask for help
- Are offered suitable support e.g. translation and interpretation, transport, technology, adaptations etc. where the lack of these services would place a person at a disadvantage on the grounds of a protected characteristic – to meet a need, not only a preference
- The impact upon the person involved is of great importance in determining what is reasonable

4.3 What support can you expect?

The school can only refuse to deliver support or adaptation if the school can prove that service is 'unreasonable' or 'impractical'. However this can only apply to particular and unforeseen circumstances.

4.4 Positive Action

The school can take proportionate positive action to address disadvantages faced by pupils of a protected characteristic, or where it would enable or encourage participation by an under represented group. An example of this is engaging male role models to work with all children (as well as small groups of boys) in order to engage boys in developing better reading and writing skills. We will gather evidence before taking positive action.

4.5 Communication

The school will communicate with people in a way that is suitable for them. We will:

- Design materials that are easy to read- clear language and clear layout
- Use images that reflect the school and our local community
- Ask people for their preferred method of communication, where we can record it and use it e.g. email rather than letters to parents and carers
- Provide information in a variety of formats including large print, Braille, local languages etc. where needed
- Attach full contact details to make it easy for people to contact us
- Train and support employees in communication

The school recognises British Sign Language as a language in its own right. The school will promote Deaf culture and identity and make use of suitable BSL interpretation and recordings.

We will train relevant staff in deaf equality and BSL skills and make it known to all staff that has the relevant skills to deal with pupils, visitors, parents etc.

4.6 Curriculum, resources and involvement

We will mainstream equality through the curriculum in our choice of diverse and challenging materials and activities. We will support children and young people examine their lives and personal identity in the light of people's experiences which are both similar and different to them.

The images we use will reflect the diversity of society in a positive way so to meet the third duty of the Equality Act - to promote good relations between people. We will not omit or avoid certain equality issues because to do so would be to promote a false picture of the people of Blaenau Gwent.

We will welcome people across the protected characteristics to our school to share their skills and experience. We will make sure that we make all people feel welcome.

4.7 Buying goods and services and working in partnership

The school will pass on its equalities duties to any person or body who:

- works for us or with us,
- delivers goods for us,
- whether they are paid, voluntary or partners.

All school contracts will state that they have to meet the equalities standards as set out in this Plan. The impact of this is that school related activities will be fair and equal for all employees, pupils and parents.

4.8 Engagement

The school consults and involves all the school's stakeholders on matters that concern them, including this Plan and Equality Objectives. Engaging people will give us evidence to work out how well we are doing in delivering equality.

The school has procedures for finding out how pupils think and feel about the school.

4.9 Training

We'll make sure that all people involved with the school know our equality commitments and their personal duty under it. We'll provide suitable training for all staff and pupils. Where there are issues or potential issues e.g. social tensions, we'll continue to address matters through the curriculum and where it's needed use targeted external interventions, for example 'Show Racism the Red Card' etc.

We will encourage employees and governors to continually develop their learning and experience of equality matters through a range of methods including study, shadowing, partnerships and twinning work etc.

4.10 Complaints and comments

We like getting feedback about the school. We need people to tell us how we are doing. If you have a concern or complaint please let us know. You can tell a teacher or school employee, telephone, write or email us. If you'd like to make an appointment with a relevant person, we'll arrange it and feel free to bring along a friend or colleague for support.

When we deal with a concern or complaint we will do our best to keep people involved informed of what's happening and check that everyone is happy with the process. Advocacy and personal support is available for children and young people who need it.

5. Discrimination, victimisation and harassment

5.1 Discrimination

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination. The school will make sure that nothing we do discriminates against any person or people on the grounds of a protected characteristic. Human Rights are applicable to all people in relation to the school.

There are four kind of illegal discrimination defined in the Equality Act 2010, they apply to service delivery and employment across the protected characteristics:

1. **Direct discrimination**– where a person treats another less favourably because of a protected characteristic e.g. refused to admit a child because they are Roma.
2. **Combined direct (dual) discrimination** - where a person is treated less favourably because of a combination of protected characteristics e.g. a school excludes a pupil because they are black and male.

Discrimination based on association is now illegal. Direct discrimination occurs when you treat a pupil less favourably because of their association with another person who has a protected characteristic e.g. their brother is a disabled person.

Discrimination based on perception is now illegal. Direct discrimination also occurs when you treat a pupil less favourably because you mistakenly think that they have a protected characteristic e.g. discrimination against a young person who is believed to be gay, even if they're not.

3. **Indirect discrimination** – when a policy or practice is apparently neutral but the effect places a group of people at a significant disadvantage e.g. a rigid school dress code which does not account for items of clothing linked to religion.
4. **Discrimination arising from disability** – where a person is treated less favourably because of something related to their impairment e.g. a pupil with a learning disability disciplined for not obeying a rule that they hadn't understood because they didn't understand the sign.

5.2 Harassment including bullying

The school's work around personal and social education will help build a school community that understands and enjoys equality and diversity.

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from harassment. Harassment is unwanted behaviour that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person.

The school has responsibility to protect pupils, prospective pupils, former pupils, employees etc. from harassment. The school will be pro-active on protecting people by raising awareness, training teachers and pupils, encouraging people to report harassment and will deal with problems as they arise.

Harassment now includes **harassment based on association** i.e. a friend of a disabled person, **or perception** i.e. mistakenly believed to be a Muslim etc.

Where there are instances of bullying in and associated with the school we will deal with instances promptly and sensitively. We recognise that instances that are motivated by prejudice against people of a particular characteristic, or bullying that affects one group of people in particular, has a greater negative effect, both for the people involved and for the school community.

5.3 Victimisation

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from victimisation on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics. Victimisation is when a person subjects another person to detriment because they have done, or believed that they will do, a 'protected act.'

A 'protected act' are acts that include giving information or evidence under the Equality Act 2010, bringing proceedings, or making an allegation in relation to the Act, as long as they have done so in good faith- that is they thought they were being honest.

5.4 Discrimination

Name calling, physical attacks, threats, the spreading of false rumours in person and on-line are all made more serious where a person is victimised for who they are. We know that discrimination and prejudice are particularly damaging to the individual and to family, friends and the school community. The school will take incidents of discrimination seriously and sensitively. False allegations are also taken seriously.

We will take an active role where discrimination is identified and it involves our employees, pupils or premises. Incidents 'on the bus' or 'outside school' negatively affect our pupils as much as incidents in school and we will tackle it where it is known.

Discrimination involving adults are treated differently to those involving children and young people. All adults are fully responsible for their actions. Children and young people may need support and education in matters to do with prejudice and discrimination and as such we will try to find solutions that involve the whole group and avoid criminalising individuals' because of their actions. We will work with partners to find solutions, in particular where incidents are complicated or involve a wide group of people.

6 Performance/ standards - how we deliver the policy

6.1 Leadership and Management

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the school fulfils its legal equalities responsibilities. A member of the Governing Body has a watching brief for equalities matters. With assistance from the Head teacher, the Governing Body will ensure that this Plan is implemented.

The Governing Body has equalities issues as regular items on the agenda of Governing Body meetings and there is a governor with responsibility for equalities.

The named persons with responsibility for dealing with reported incidents of discrimination or bullying are Mr. P. Brookman Headteacher and Mrs. N. Greenland Deputy Head. The school will make sure that all incidents of discrimination relating to the school, its pupils and staff are reported and recorded in a register. The register will be shared with the local authority to help it plan anti-discrimination work. Neither the school nor the local authority will ever publicly identify individuals involved in incidents.

The Equality Coordinator is a senior member of staff with special responsibility for implementing and promoting equalities matters and this Plan.

6.2 Taking decisions and Equality Impact Assessments

The school uses two different tools to look at the potential equality impact of our actions.

Before introducing important new policies or measures the school carefully assesses the potential impact on equalities, positive or negative. Blaenau Gwent Council has an Equality Impact Assessment tool which is suitable for schools. We will publish the Equality Impact Assessments as is required by law.

An Equality Impact Assessment will include:

- The purpose of the policy or practice
- A summary of the steps taken in the assessment (engagement)
- A summary of the information gathered and used
- The result of the assessment and
- Any decision taken by the school in relation to the results.

Blaenau Gwent Council's Equality Self Evaluation Tool for Schools is different and used in different circumstances. It looks at the work of the school in detail and provides a snapshot of where we are. It asks similar questions to the EIA but in respect to the whole school development.

Whenever possible, a broad range of people including staff, parents, pupils and others are involved in consultation on policy development. Any issues arising will be addressed and stakeholders informed of decisions and actions.

6.3 Performance

The school uses Blaenau Gwent Council's Equality Self Evaluation Tool to evaluate performance across most equality matters. Performance in relation to the Action Plan and Equality Objectives will be reported to Governors annually and included in the school's Self Evaluation.

6.4 Identifying and publishing equality information

The school will identify, publish and use equalities information each year to show how we are delivering the equality duty. The information we publish will be easy to find and easy to understand.

For pupils and school performance we will be publishing information on:

- Composition broken down by year group, ethnicity and gender and by proficiency in English / Welsh
- Composition broken down by types of disability and special educational needs
- Inequality of outcome and participation connected with ethnicity, gender and disability, and with proficiency in English / Welsh
- Instances of discrimination
- Complaints.

We will be sensible in producing information. We realise that if the data group is very small then a breakdown of that data will not give us any useful information e.g. looking at the academic achievement of two individuals in a year group cannot tell us about the performance of Chinese pupils in general. No data published will identify any individual.

Other matters including language needs, behavioural needs, poverty, schooling history etc. will be taken into account in analysing data and developing strategies to address equality differences.

7 Employment

7.1 Employment

The school aims to be a fair employer and promote a friendly working culture. Without committed enthusiastic, skilled and empowered people the school cannot succeed. We'll create a healthy, safe and supportive work environment where people are respected for who they are and employees can perform at their best.

We want our workforce to reflect society in Blaenau Gwent. It is illegal to discriminate either directly or indirectly against people in selecting and employing people, in the

terms of employment, access to training, promotion, transfers, retirement, dismissal, and other benefits on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics.

School employees are covered by the school's Pay Policy which ensures that we have robust pay scales, performance management and commitment to continual professional development for employees through all employment levels. *We refer to / have adopted Blaenau Gwent Council's Human Resources Policies.*

7.3 Requests in relation to a protected characteristic

We will make every reasonable endeavour to meet employees' requests relating to a protected characteristic, including dress, food, holidays, prayer times, work patterns, leave, support, physical adaptations etc. in order not to discriminate.

7.4 Positive action in Employment

Positive action measures can be used to counteract the effects of past discrimination so that people in such groups can achieve their potential. We will evidence that we believe such disadvantages or underrepresentation exists before taking action.

If two candidates meet the job requirements and are equally good candidates, the school may choose a candidate from a less represented group in order to address demographic balance in the workforce.

7.5 Monitoring and publishing information on employment

We will monitor and publish equality information on our workforce in line with Blaenau Gwent Council's Strategic Equality Plan. This includes monitoring recruitment, employee development and retention.

Figures on employment will not inform us of the reason for any differentials. For the causes of any differentials and actions to address them we'll ask current and prospective employees their opinions and experiences.

7.6 Positive about disabled people

The school is committed to the two ticks - 'Positive about disabled people initiative which guarantees an interview for disabled people who meet the essential job requirements. We can make changes to an employee's environment and role if they are disabled.

8 Action Plan 2025-2028

Equality and diversity is a normal part of the school's everyday business. This action plan sets out the school's main equality projects. There may be more or different work needed as opportunities arise.

	What we are going to do	How we monitor it	What is a successful outcome	Person responsible
• Reduce the gap in attainment between boys and	Continue to plan programmes of work that are	By Incerts TA End of year results Planning schemes	To continue to narrow gender gap in line with	SMT all teaching and support staff

girls and carefully monitor the protected groups identified in school performance data.	equally stimulating for boys and girls	of work	family of schools	
Achieve Rights respecting schools Level 2 award	Continue through Health and Wellbeing Action Plan	Assessor visits	Level 2 UNICEF	SMT and SP
Continue to reduce gaps in levels of attendance between different protected groups.	Monitor attendance EWO visits Analysis of data Use of Callio to be reinstated	Weekly termly and annual attendance against vulnerable groups Attendance club	Increase levels of attendance	Head Clerk EWO Parents
Monitoring and reporting on equality progress	Equality book established	Read any entries	No entries	Head SMT
Communication	Governors report	Standing item of reporting on half termly reports to full Governing Body	Governors are aware of any reportable incidents.	Head Governors
Access plan	See plan			
Buying goods and services	In line with LA policy			
Stakeholder engagement	Encourage involvement	Parental and pupil engagement events	Greater engagement with stakeholders	Head and staff. Parents and pupils
Training	RRs and other training offered by LEA	Head to keep a training register of all staff and governors	Staff all appropriately trained	Head and SLT
Complaints and comments	Recorded and actioned	Records maintained	Successful resolution of any complaint	Head and Governors complaints panel
Anti-bullying and good relations	Policy into action	Reportable incidents appropriately	All dealt with in accordance	Head and all stakeholders

		recorded	to the school policy and anti-bullying charter	
Leadership	Head training as offered by LEA	Training register	All required statutory training and other training completed.	Head, Governing Body.
Equality Self Evaluation Tool	Will use in conjunction with all self evaluation.	Self evaluation tool highlights areas for improvement.	Action planning links to self evaluation activity	Head and SLT. Report to Governors
Publishing equality information	To governors	Monitored as part of policy adoption updates.	All policy published accordingly as required	Head and Governing Body

Signed: P.J. Brookman.

Head Teacher

Chair of Governors _____

Date: 20th October 2025