

Maiden Erlegh Trust
EQUALITY POLICY



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Initial approval:	May 2015
Review frequency:	Every three years
Date(s) reviewed:	May 2018, June 2019, October 2019

Contents

Scope..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Principles..... 3

Trust Equality Policy 4

Action Planning 5

Policy into Practice 5

Roles and Responsibilities 8

Publishing the Equality Policy and Action Plan 11

Appendix 1: Equality and the law..... 12

Appendix 2: Discrimination- Guidance..... 13

Appendix 3: Examination Team Procedures..... 19

Scope

The Equality Act came into effect from autumn 2010 (amendment order 2012) which placed a new Equality duty on all public bodies which includes academies. Maiden Erlegh Trust has developed this policy to ensure it meets its statutory duty to consider needs of students and their families, employees and contracted service providers in terms of:

- Protected characteristics
- Community Cohesion
- Site / Asset Management and Health & Safety

This document sets out how students, employees and visitors to Trust schools with the following protected characteristics will be protected from harassment and/or discrimination:

- sex;
- race;
- disability;
- religion and belief;
- sexual orientation;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy or maternity..

This document also extends to cover all aspects of vulnerability, including those associated with socio-economic factors where known (e.g. students qualifying for free meals).

Maiden Erlegh Trust is committed to being a good employer and this policy outlines how we meet our varied duties in terms of recruitment and employment practices. As such, this scheme sets out how we will work to overcome any discrimination related to the above protected characteristics and also:

- age;
- being married or in a civil partnership;

This policy will be evaluated with findings reported to the Board of Trustees annually. A full review will be conducted every three years.

Principles

In fulfilling the legal obligations outlined later in this policy, the Trust is guided by the following principles:

Principle 1: all members of the Trust and the wider community are of equal value

Principle 2: we recognise and respect diversity

Treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate, but are differentiated as appropriate.

Principle 3: We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- Positive attitudes towards disabled people and good relations between disabled and non-disabled people;
- Positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or socio-economic circumstances, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents;
- Mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, women and men and an absence of sexual harassment;
- Positive intergenerational attitudes and relationships.

Principle 4: We will ensure that the recruitment, retention and ongoing development of staff are undertaken in a fair and equitable manner to support our academy's vision and values.

Principle 5: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.

Principle 6: Students, their families, staff and the wider community as a whole should benefit.

The police contributes to the school fulfilling its duty to promote and teach British Values and contribute to 'working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the work place, in academies and in the wider community' (Ref: Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion, Department for Children, Schools & Families, 2007).

Trust Equality Policy

Each Trust academy will have an Equality Policy which will;

1. Ensure that everyone who belongs to, or comes into contact with, our Trust community is valued, respected and their individual needs are supported;
2. Promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation related to any protected characteristic or aspect of social identity;
3. Promote positive attitudes to all aspects of social identity and diversity;
4. Encourage participation by disabled people and people representing different aspects of social identity in public life;
5. Promote a shared commitment to British Values;
6. Ensure all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential;
7. Take steps to take account of difference even where that involves treating some people more favourably than others;
8. Take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of students, including reviewing progress of students by groups as identified in data monitoring sets.

9. Promote and support the continued professional development of all staff;
10. Comply with statutory duties under equalities legislation in one single document.

Action Planning

Each academy in the Trust has a separate Equality Action Plan which identifies its key priorities for its Equalities work.

Each action plan sets out how each academy will ensure access to education for Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) students, alongside other protected groups, in the three areas required:

- Maximise the extent to which SEND students can participate in the academy curriculum;
- Monitor the environment of the academy to ensure SEND students can take advantage of education and associated services;
- Ensure delivery to SEND students is appropriate and equitable to those students who are not disabled nor have SEN requirements.

It should be read alongside the SEND Information Report.

Monitoring

The effectiveness of this action plan will be monitored and evaluated through a scrutiny of:

- The academy's self-evaluation;
- Results from stakeholder surveys;
- The academy's work towards relevant Quality Marks;
- Evidence from external reviews (including Ofsted).

A full review of the Equality Action Plan will be scheduled as a Local Advisory Board and Trustee Board agenda item on an annual basis.

Policy into Practice

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the academy operates equality of opportunity in its day to day practice in the following ways:

Ethos and Organisation

Each academy will ensure that the principles previously listed above also apply to the full range of our academy policies, procedures and practices including those that are concerned with:

- Learners' progress, attainment and assessment;
- Learners' and staff personal development, welfare and well-being;
- Teaching styles and strategies;

- Admissions and attendance;
- Staff and trustee recruitment, retention and professional development;
- Care, guidance and support;
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions;
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community;
- Participation of groups in wider academy activities;
- Preparing all members of the learning community for living and positively contributing to a diverse society.

Teaching, learning and assessment

We aim to provide all our students with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, we will:

- Monitor the progress and attainment of all students from protected groups and we will use this data to support students, set challenging targets, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching;
- Ensure equality of access for all students to class-based and enrichment learning;
- Use materials that reflect the diversity in terms of race, gender and disability without stereotyping;
- Prepare them for life in a diverse society;
- Promote British Values of tolerance and respect;
- Provide opportunities for students to appreciate and celebrate their own cultures and those of others;
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education;

The Curriculum

We review the curriculum (including the enrichment curriculum) annually order to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment the seven principles outlined above.*

**The content of the curriculum is excluded from discrimination law following the Equality Act 2010. The Act does, however, explicitly include the delivery of the curriculum i.e. the way in which education is provided. Schools will need to ensure that the way in which issues are taught does not subject individual students to discrimination. Further that it would not be unlawful for a teacher in any school to express personal views on sexual orientation provided that it is done in an appropriate manner and context. (Draft guidance from the DfE cited in Equality Act 2010). The academy's policy reflects this statement.*

Admissions and exclusions

Across the Trust, admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or protected characteristics and socio-economic status.

When deemed necessary the decision to exclude a student always considers need and protected characteristics in line with the Trust's Behaviour Policy. We closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact.

Equal Opportunities for Staff

The Trust is committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment. Whilst we try to ensure that the staffing of the academy reflects the diversity of our community, all staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.

Equality aspects relating to protected characteristics such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff, allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

As an employer the Trust, and the academies within it, recognise the need to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention (including bullying and harassment of staff);
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff;
- Senior Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all;
- School policies such as Recruitment Policy, Whistleblowing Policy.

Addressing Prejudice and Prejudice-related bullying

The academy is opposed to all forms of prejudice which stand in the way of fulfilling legal duties for all aspects of equality such as:

- Prejudices around disability and special educational needs;

- Prejudices around racism and xenophobia, including those that are directed towards religious groups and communities, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and those that are directed against Travellers, refugees and people seeking asylum;
- Prejudices reflecting sexism and homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

The Trust Anti-bullying Policy describes how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with. Each academy reports numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents to the Trust on a half-termly basis. The data is available for the Local Authority but they currently have informed schools that they do not collect it.

Roles and Responsibilities

Local Advisory Board (LAB)

LAB for each academy will:

- Ensure that the academy complies with all relevant equalities legislation;
- Recommend all governors receive up to date training in all the equalities duties;
- Ensure the Equality Action Plan are linked to the School Improvement Plan;
- Support the Headteacher(s) in implementing any actions necessary;
- Ensure that parents' views are considered in drawing up action plans and that they are informed about the impact of any actions;
- Review the policy at least every three years;
- Conduct on-going and a full annual evaluation of the action plan;
- Seek to ensure that people are not discriminated against when applying for employment or promotion;
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the academy environment gives access to people with disabilities, and also strive to make academy communications as inclusive as possible for parents and students;
- Welcome all applications for admission to the academy, whatever a student's socio-economic background, race, gender or disability;
- Ensure that no student is discriminated against on account of their race, gender or disability and other protected characteristics.

Headteacher(s)

- Ensure that all staff, volunteers and parents are aware of the Equality Policy and that there is a collective responsibility to apply these guidelines fairly in all situations;
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively (supported by the Local Advisory Board);

- Manage any day to day issues arising from the policy whether for students or for the academy as an employer and treat all incidents with due seriousness;
- Ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the policy;
- Liaise with external agencies so that each academy's actions are in line with best practice;
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy and report to the Local Advisory Board annually;
- Ensure that senior leaders are kept up to date with any development affecting the policy;
- Provide appropriate support and monitoring for all students and specifically target students to whom the policy/action plan has a more direct relevance;
- Ensure that all appointments panels give due regard to this policy to ensure there is no discrimination in employment or training opportunities;
- Promote the principle of equal opportunity when developing the curriculum; promote respect for other people and equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of academy life.

Senior Leaders will:

- Supporting other staff in implementing this policy;
- Lead in the dissemination of information relating to the policy;
- Identify good quality resources and CPD opportunities to support the policy;
- Under the direction of the Headteacher(s), provide advice/support in dealing with any incidents/issues;
- Assist in implementing reviews as detailed in the Equalities Action Plan and School Improvement Plan.

Academy Staff will:

- Accept that implementing the policy and promoting equality is their responsibility and support the implementation of the policy and action plan;
- Read the policy and action plan and take on board how it relates to them;
- Highlight any queries or training requirements;
- Deal with incidents in line with our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies and our Code of Conduct for Staff;
- Identify and challenge any incidents of bias, stereotyping, bullying, harassment, prejudice, racism or homophobia/biphobia/transphobia, and report them in line with our Anti-Bullying Policies and our Code of Conduct for Staff;

- Work together in a positive way to promote equality and deal with discriminatory incidents;
- Not discriminate on racial, disability, gender or other grounds;
- Keep themselves up to date with relevant legislation and attend training and information events organised by the Trust or Academy;
- Ensure that all students are treated fairly, equally and with respect;
- Ensure that students from all groups are included in all activities and have full access to the curriculum;
- Provide material that gives positive images based on race, gender and disability, and challenges stereotypical images;
- Promote equality and diversity through relations with students, staff, parents, and the wider community;
- Monitor and, where necessary, guide the practice of volunteers, visitors or contractors working in the academy.
- Report any concerns to the Headteacher(s) of their Trust academy.

Students will:

- Be made aware of any relevant part of the policy, appropriate to age and ability;
- Be expected to act in accordance with any relevant part of the policy;
- Understand the importance of reporting discriminatory bullying and racially motivated incidents;
- Ensure any peer support programme within the academy promotes understanding and supports students who are experiencing discrimination.

Parents, Guardians & Carers will:

- Have access to the policy;
- Be encouraged to support the policy;
- Have the right to be informed of any incident related to this policy which could directly affect their child.

All visitors, volunteers and contractors are responsible for complying with the academy's Equality Policy – non-compliance will be dealt with in the first instance by the Headteacher(s).

Publishing the Equality Policy and Action Plan

In order to meet statutory requirements each academy will:

- Publish the policy and Action Plan on the academy website;
- Place an electronic copy of the policy in the staff area of the academy's computer system;
- Raise awareness of the policy through assemblies, staff meetings and other communications;
- Ensure paper copies are made available on request;
- Ensure support is offered to students and parents where English is not their primary language to assist in understanding the content of the academy's policy.

Appendix 1: Equality and the law

This policy is designed to meet the duties and legislative requirements for race, disability, gender, religion / belief and sexual orientation as stated in the Equality Act 2010 (and amendment order 2012) and act upon the government progress report findings (2012). The act supersedes or strengthens the following acts and regulations:

- The Equal Pay Act 1970
- The Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- The Race Relations Act 1976
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000)
- The Disability Discrimination Act 2005, 1995
- Disability Equality Duty 2005
- The Employment Equality (Religion & Belief and Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- The Equality Act 2006 Part 2
- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

The academy's Equality Policy and Action Plan have also been informed by additional statutes of law such as:

- *Prevent* Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015
- SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016
- The Education Act 2011
- The Inspections Act 2006.

The Trust and its academies recognise there is also a need to address bullying and discriminatory incidents, as these issues are prevalent in racist, sexist, disability and homophobic/biphobic/transphobic incidents. Therefore this policy should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Anti-Bullying policy.

Appendix 2: Discrimination- Guidance

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the Trust.

All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents in line with academy policies. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a student's individual circumstances.

Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying will be initially managed by the member of staff present, escalating to Head of Year/Head of Department or member of the academy's Senior Leadership Team where necessary.

All incidents however will be reported to the Headteacher(s).

All racist incidents will be reported to the Board of Trustees.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti.

A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as:
'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

Maiden Erlegh Trust Schools will embed the principles of this definition.

Types of discriminatory incident

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into the academy;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate or bully a victim because of their race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;
- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g. food, music, religion, dress etc;

- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Types of Discrimination

Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably than you treat (or would treat) another person because of a protected characteristic.

In order for someone to show that they have been directly discriminated against, they must compare what has happened to them to the treatment a person without their protected characteristic is receiving or would receive. A person does not need to find an actual person to compare their treatment with but can rely on a hypothetical person if they can show there is evidence that such a person would be treated differently.

There is no need for someone claiming direct discrimination because of racial segregation or pregnancy or maternity to find a person to compare them self to:

- Racial segregation is deliberately separating people by race or colour or ethnic or national origin and will always be unlawful direct discrimination.
- To claim pregnancy or maternity discrimination a female must show that she has been treated unfavourably because of her pregnancy or maternity and does not have to compare her treatment to the treatment of someone who was not pregnant or a new mother.

Discrimination based on association

Direct discrimination also occurs when a person is treated less favourably because of their association with another person who has a protected characteristic (other than pregnancy and maternity). This might occur when a person is treated less favourably because their sibling, parent, carer or friend has a protected characteristic.

Discrimination based on perception

Direct discrimination also occurs when a person is treated less favourably because someone mistakenly think that they have a protected characteristic.

Discrimination because of pregnancy and maternity

It is discrimination to treat a woman (including a female student of any age) less favourably because she is or has been pregnant, has given birth in the last 26 weeks or is breastfeeding a baby who is 26 weeks or younger.

It is direct sex discrimination to treat a woman (including a female student of any age) less favourably because she is breastfeeding a child who is more than 26 weeks old.

Indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination occurs when you apply a provision, criterion or practice in the same way for all persons or a particular group but this has the effect of putting persons sharing a protected characteristic within the general group at a particular disadvantage. It doesn't matter that you did not intend to disadvantage the person/s with a particular protected

characteristic in this way. What does matter is whether your action does or would disadvantage such person/s compared with persons who do not share that characteristic.

'Disadvantage' is not defined in the Act but a rule of thumb is that a reasonable person would consider that disadvantage has occurred. It can take many different forms, such as denial of an opportunity or choice, deterrence, rejection or exclusion.

'Provision', 'criterion' or 'practice' are not defined in the Act but can be interpreted widely and include:

- Arrangements (for example, for deciding who to admit);
- The way that education, or access to any benefit, service or facility is offered or provided;
- One-off decisions;
- Proposals or directions to do something in a particular way.

Indirect discrimination will occur if the following four conditions are met:

- You apply (or would apply) the provision, criterion or practice equally to all relevant persons, including a particular person with a protected characteristic, and
- The provision, criterion or practice puts or would put persons sharing a protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage compared to relevant persons who do not share that characteristic, and
- The provision, criteria, practice or rule puts or would put the particular person at that disadvantage, and
- You cannot show that the provision, criteria of practice is justified as a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'.

What is a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'?

To be legitimate the aim of the provision, criterion or practice must be legal and non-discriminatory and represent a real objective consideration. In the context of education, examples of legitimate aims might include:

- Maintaining academic and other standards;
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of students.

Even if the aim is legitimate the means of achieving it must be proportionate. Proportionate means 'appropriate and necessary', but 'necessary' does not mean that the provision, criterion or practice is the only possible way of achieving the legitimate aim.

Although the financial cost of using a less discriminatory approach cannot, by itself, provide a justification, cost can be taken into account as part of an academy's justification, if there are other good reasons for adopting the chosen practice.

The more serious the disadvantage caused by the discriminatory provision, criterion or practice, the more convincing the justification must be.

In a case involving disability, failure to comply with the duty to make relevant reasonable adjustments, will make it difficult to show that the treatment was proportionate.

Discrimination arising from disability

Discrimination arising from disability occurs when you treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and cannot justify such treatment.

Discrimination arising from disability is different from direct discrimination. Direct discrimination occurs because of the protected characteristic of disability. For discrimination arising from disability, the motive for the treatment does not matter; the question is whether the disabled person has been treated unfavourably because of something connected with their disability.

Discrimination arising from disability is also different from indirect discrimination. There is no need to show that other people have been affected alongside the individual disabled person or for the disabled person to compare themselves with anyone else.

Discrimination arising from disability will occur if the following three conditions are met:

- The academy treats a disabled person unfavourably, that is putting them at a disadvantage, even if this was not the intention, and
- This treatment is because of something connected with the disabled person's disability (which could be the result, effect or outcome of that disability) such as an inability to walk unaided or disability-related behaviour, and
- The academy cannot justify the treatment by showing that it is 'a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'. This is explained above.

Knowledge of disability

You will need to show that:

- You did not know that the disabled person had the disability in question, and
- You could not reasonably have been expected to know that the disabled person had the disability, and
- The unfavourable treatment would not amount to unlawful discrimination arising from disability.

If an agent (someone who undertakes tasks on your behalf) or employee knows of a person's disability, the academy will not usually be able to claim that it do not know of the disability.

Relevance of reasonable adjustments

By acting quickly to identify and put in place reasonable adjustments for disabled persons, the academy can often avoid discrimination arising from disability, although there may be cases where an adjustment is unrelated to the unfavourable treatment in question.

If the academy fails to make an appropriate reasonable adjustment, it is likely to be very difficult for it to argue that unfavourable treatment is justified.

Reasonable adjustments

The Trust has a duty to reasonably adjust, first introduced under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The reasonable adjustments duty under the Equality Act operates slightly differently and has been extended to cover the provision by an academy of auxiliary aids and services; however this element of the duty will not come into force until a later date yet to be confirmed. The object of the duty is the same: to avoid as far as possible by reasonable means, the disadvantage which a disabled person experiences because of their disability.

This duty sits alongside the academy's duties and those of local authorities under Part 4 of the Education Act 1996. In some cases the support a disabled student may receive under the special educational needs framework may mean that they do not suffer a substantial disadvantage (see below) and so there is no need for additional reasonable adjustments to be made for them. In other cases disabled students may require reasonable adjustments in addition to the special educational provision they are receiving. There are also disabled students who do not have special educational needs but still require reasonable adjustments to be made for them. The level of support a student is receiving under Part 4 of the Education Act 1996 is one of the factors to be taken into account when you consider what it would be reasonable for you to have to do.

What is the reasonable adjustments duty?

The academy is required to take reasonable steps to avoid substantial disadvantage where a provision, criterion or practice puts disabled students at a substantial disadvantage

Academies owe this duty to existing students, applicants and, in limited circumstances, to disabled former students in relation to the following areas:

- Deciding who is offered admission as a student;
- The provision of education;
- Access to any benefit, service or facility.

The duty does not require the academy to make reasonable adjustments to avoid the disadvantage caused by physical features as this is covered by the planning duties.

The academy cannot justify a failure to make a reasonable adjustment; where the duty arises, the issue will be whether or not to make the adjustment is 'reasonable' and this is an objective question for the tribunals to ultimately determine.

The duty is an anticipatory and continuing one that we owe to disabled students generally, regardless of whether it is known that a particular student is disabled or whether we currently have any disabled students. We will not wait until an individual disabled student approaches us before we consider how to meet the duty. Instead we will plan ahead for the reasonable adjustments the academy may need to make, regardless of whether we currently have any disabled students. By anticipating the need for an adjustment we will be best placed to help disabled students who come to our academy. The academy is not expected to anticipate the needs of every prospective student but is required to think about and take reasonable and proportionate steps to overcome barriers that may impede students with different kinds of disabilities.

What is a substantial disadvantage?

A disadvantage that is more than minor or trivial is called a 'substantial disadvantage'. The level of disadvantage created by a lack of reasonable adjustments is measured in comparison with what the position would be if the disabled student in question did not have a disability.

The academy will take into account a number of factors when considering whether or not the disadvantage is substantial such as:

- The time and effort that might need to be expended by a disabled child;
- The inconvenience, indignity or discomfort a disabled child might suffer;
- The loss of opportunity, or the diminished progress a disabled child might make in comparison with his or her peers who are not disabled.

The duty to change a provision, criterion or practice

These terms are not defined but in general they relate to how the education and other benefits, facilities and services are provided and cover all of your arrangements, policies, procedures and activities.

Where a provision, criterion or practice places disabled students at a substantial disadvantage in accessing education and any benefit, facility or service, we will take such steps as it is reasonable to take in all the circumstances to ensure the provision, criterion or practice no longer has such an effect. This might mean waiving a criterion or abandoning a practice altogether but often will involve just an extension of the flexibility and individual approach that most schools and academies already show to their students.

When is it reasonable for the academy to have to make adjustments?

A useful starting point when determining what a reasonable adjustment might be is to consider how to ensure that disabled students can be involved in every aspect of academy life. Often effective and practical adjustments involve little or no cost or disruption.

Where disabled students are placed at a substantial disadvantage by a provision, criterion or practice or the absence of an auxiliary aid, the academy will consider whether any reasonable adjustment can be made to overcome that disadvantage.

The academy does not expect disabled students to suggest adjustments but if they do we will consider whether those adjustments would help to overcome the disadvantage and whether the suggestions are reasonable. It is good practice for schools and academies to work with students and their parents/guardians in determining what reasonable adjustments can be made.

Appendix 3: Examination Team Procedures

A Training invigilators

Each invigilators will be made aware of the Equality Act 2010, and a copy of this policy provided as part of their training.

As part of the training process all invigilators will be made aware of policies and procedures relating to emergency evacuation and medication, especially where they relate to candidates with a disability.

All invigilators are aware of alternative means of communication, especially in the examination room when conveying information to disabled candidates.

B Information for candidates

Information supplied to candidates with a disability, such as JCQ Information for candidates, are suitably sized and adapted.

C Seating arrangements

There is provision available outside the examination rooms to enable those with a disability or those candidates who experience extreme stress or anxiety, to sit and rest before they enter the examination.

There is sufficient space between desks and chairs to enable a candidate (or an invigilator) who uses a wheelchair to enter and leave the room without difficulty.

Where a candidate may become unwell during the examination due to the nature of their disability, they will be seated close to the exits to make them feel more comfortable and to limit any disruption to others within the examination room.

Seating is provided which is both appropriate and comfortable for those who may have a disability which affects sitting and posture.

D Candidates requiring access arrangements

Where a candidate has been granted the use of an Oral Language Modifier, a reader or a scribe, those individuals who will be acting as an Oral Language Modifier, a reader or a scribe will be introduced to the candidate prior to the examination(s) taking place.

Where a candidate has been granted the use of a prompter, the person appointed to act as a prompter is aware of disability etiquette, particularly when touching the candidate's desk as a means of a prompt, or tapping the candidate's arm or shoulder.

Where on-screen tests are used, hardware and software will be adapted for those candidates with a sensory or multi-sensory impairment.

E Emergency evacuation procedures

Invigilators and all other centre staff involved in conducting examinations will be made aware of the emergency evacuation procedures in place for those candidates with a disability who may need assistance in leaving the building. When evacuation and emergency procedures are being explained to candidates, attention will be given to those candidates with a disability, for whom such procedures may be different.