



The Henry Cort Community College

Equality Policy (including Equality Information and Objectives)

ASPIRE

ACHIEVEMENT * SUPPORT * PERSEVERANCE * INDIVIDUALITY * RESPECT * EXCELLENCE

Introduction

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 as both a provider of education and as an employer.

We believe that all students and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstances. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our college. We recognise that equality will only be achieved by the whole college community working together – our students, staff, governors and parents/carers.

This document outlines the principles which will guide our approach to working with our college community and enabling an open culture.

For staff and prospective staff, this policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Employment Equality Policy.

National and Legal Context

We recognise that we have duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the college community to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (applicable only to staff), disability, race, gender (including issues of transgender), maternity and pregnancy, religion and belief, sexual orientation and marital status (applicable only to staff).

We also recognise that we have a duty under the Education & Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion, i.e. developing good relations across different cultures and groups.

We also appreciate that these duties reflect the international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Principles

To fulfil our legal obligations, we are guided by a number of principles.

1. All students, families and staff are of equal value

We see all students, potential students, their parents and carers, and staff as of equal value:

- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status

- Whatever their sex
- Whatever their gender identity
- Whatever their religious and non-religious affiliation or faith background
- Whatever their sexual orientation
- Whatever their marital status
- Whether they are currently pregnant or have recently given birth
- Whatever their age
- Whether or not they have a connection with the forces community
- Whether or not they have refugee / asylum status
- Whether or not English is their first language

2. We recognise and respect difference

We recognise that treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. We recognise that our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must take account of diversity and the kinds of barriers and disadvantage that staff, parents/carers or students may face in relation to their protected characteristics:

- Disability – we understand that reasonable adjustments may need to be made
- Sex – we recognise that girls and boys, men and women have different needs
- Gender reassignment – we recognise an individual has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if they are proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.
- Religion and belief – we acknowledge that reasonable requests in relation to religious observance and practice may need to be made and complied with
- Ethnicity and race – we appreciate that all have different experiences as a result of our ethnic and racial backgrounds
- Age – we value the diversity in age of staff, parents and carers
- Sexual orientation – we respect that individuals have the right to determine their own sexual identity and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of their preference
- Marriage and civil partnership – we recognise that our staff, parents and carers may make their own personal choices in respect of personal relationships and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of the relationships they have
- Pregnancy and maternity – we believe that our staff, parents, carers and students should not experience any unfair disadvantage as a result of pregnancy or having recently given birth

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 and interaction between groups and communities different from each other
- an absence of harassment, victimisation and discrimination in relation to any protected characteristics

4. We observe good equalities practice in relation to staff

We ensure that our policies and practices for all staff and potential staff throughout the employment lifecycle, i.e. from recruitment through to the cessation of employment and beyond, are applied fairly and consistently across all groups with full respect for legal rights, taking into account aspects applicable to particular groups (e.g. duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled staff).

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

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities avoid or minimise any possible negative impacts and we aim to reduce inequalities that exist between groups and communities different from each other.

6. We consult and involve to ensure views are heard

In our development of policies, we engage with groups and individuals, including students who are affected by a policy or activity to ensure that their views are taken into account. For policies and activities affecting students, we will take account of views expressed at school council; for parents, through parent governor representation and for staff, through staff governor representation. Where necessary, we will consult more widely with specific groups.

7. We aim to foster greater community cohesion

We intend that our policies, activities and curriculum foster greater social cohesion and provide for an equal opportunity to participate in public life irrespective of the protected characteristics of individuals and groups.

8. We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish information annually to show our compliance with the public sector equality duty, set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Our current equality information can be found in Appendix A to this policy statement.

9. We set ourselves specific and measurable equality objectives

We develop and publish specific and measurable objectives every four years based on the evidence that we have gathered (principle 8) and the engagement we have been involved in (principle 7).

The objectives can be found in Appendix B to this policy statement and take into account both national, county and school level priorities.

We will set ourselves new objectives every four years, but keep them under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

Application of the principles within this policy statement:

The principles outlined in the policy statement will be applied and reflected in:

- The delivery of the college curriculum
- The teaching and learning within the college
- Our practice in relation to student progress, attainment and achievement
- Our teaching styles and strategies
- Our policies and practice in relation to admissions and attendance
- Our policies and practice in relation to staff
- Our care, guidance and support to students, their families and staff
- Our policies and practice in relation to student behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Our partnership working with parents and carers
- Our contact with the wider college community

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

The college is opposed to all forms of prejudice including, but not limited to prejudice related to protected characteristics. We will ensure that prejudice-related incidents in relation to staff and students are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for ensuring that the college complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented and that arrangements are in place to deal with any concerns or unlawful action that arises.

The Principal is responsible for implementation of this policy, ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and given appropriate training and support and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

All staff are expected to work in accordance with the principles outlined in this policy to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their practice
- deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons
- support students in their class who have additional needs

Key school policies and procedures

School policies where consideration of equality issues is likely to be particularly relevant are:

Absence Policy (staff)
Health and Safety Policy
Safeguarding Policies
Assessment, Recording and Reporting
Behaviour Policy and School Rules
Home Learning Policy
ICT Acceptable Use (staff/students)
Anti Bullying
Exclusion
Learning and Teaching
Curriculum
Examinations
Admissions
Recruitment
School Visits – Offsite Activities
Attendance
Complaints – Curriculum and General
Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance
Pay
Fitness and Suitability for Work
SEN Information Report
Appraisal and Capability (teaching staff)
Performance management and capability (support staff)

The college has published various policies on the college website. These policies evidence the school's commitment to the principles outlined in this policy and the public sector equality duty.

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Last reviewed on:	October 2022	
Date of Appendices Review	October 2025	
Date of next Review	October 2026	

Equalities Information

Appendix A

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

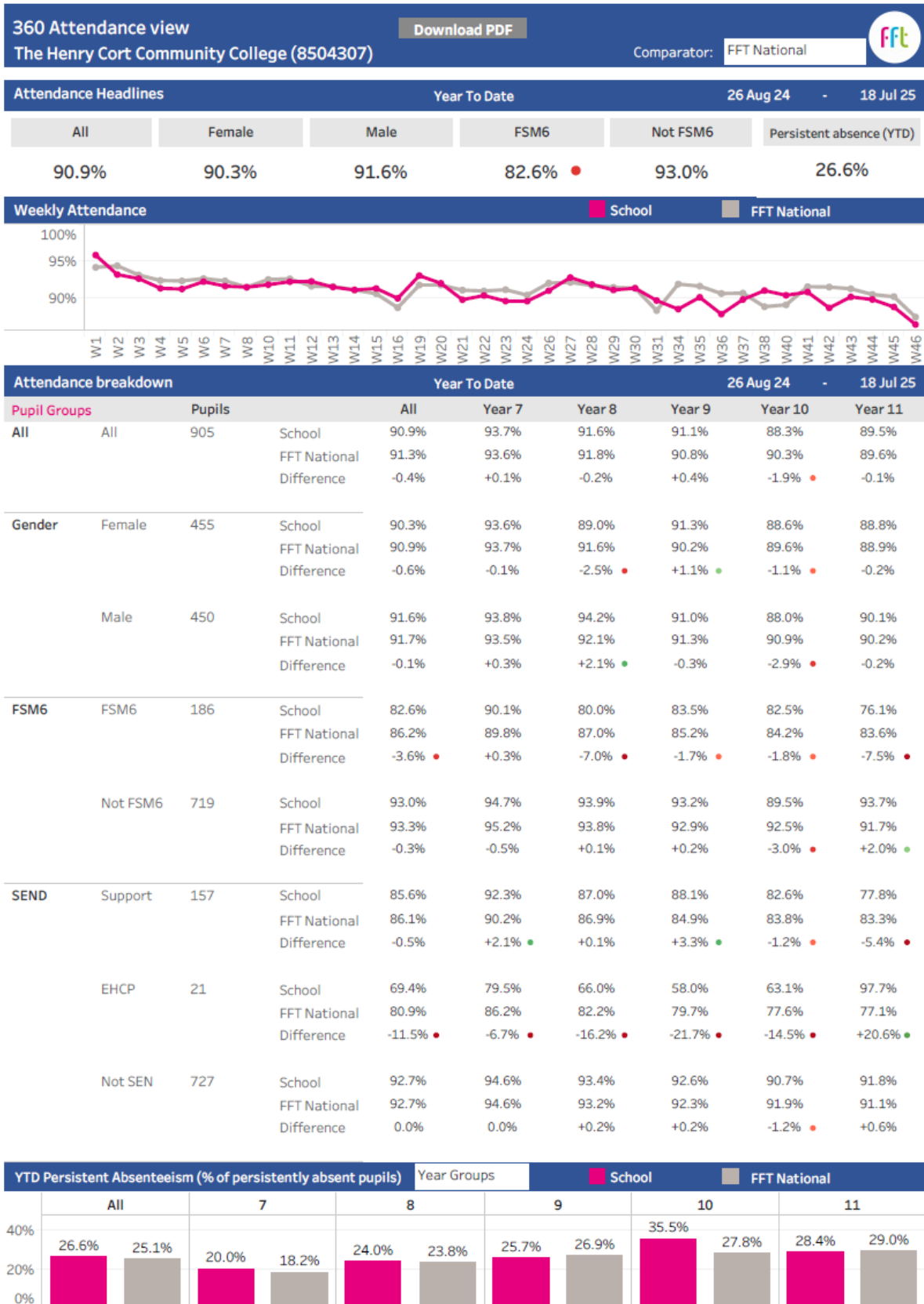
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, students, parents and others in the following ways:

- *focus groups*
- *parent questionnaires*
- *involvement of the student council*
- *staff survey*
- *contact with parents representing students with particular protected characteristics*
- *contact with the local community and disability organisations*

Student-related data - Absence data for 2024/2025



From the absence data above, a disparity can be noted between the attendance rate of disadvantaged students and those not eligible for free school meals and also that of students with

an EHCP when compared to their peers. It is not surprising to see the same pattern reflected in the attainment data below, due to the close correlation between attendance and attainment.

Therefore, driving up both attendance and attainment of those students within disadvantaged groups has become one of our equality objectives, as detailed in appendix B.

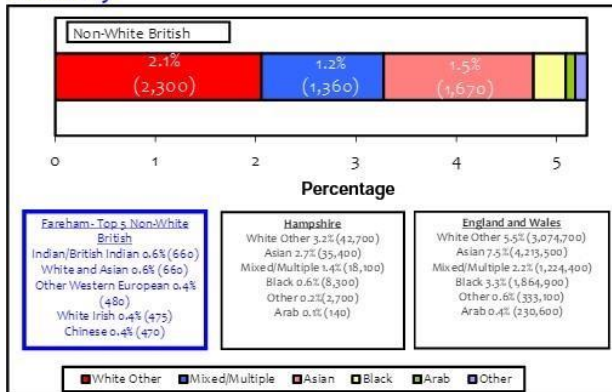
DfE data shows the college at 0.1% above national for 2024-25.

2024/2025 – Provisional figures

		Actual results			
		Pupils	Attainment 8 (Overall)	% English & Maths (Grade 4+)	%Ebacc (Grade 4+)
Summary	All Pupils	158	4.4	72	18
Gender	Male	87	4.5	66	18
	Female	71	4.3	61	17
Pupil Premium	FSM (in last 6 years)	36	3.2	32	8.1
	Not FSM (in last 6 years)	122	4.8	74	20.83
FSM	FSM	36	3.2	32	8.1
	Not FSM	122	4.8	74	20.83
SEN Group	SEN Support	27	2.7	22	7.41
	EHC Plan	1	5.2	100	100
EAL	First language not English	15	5.3	69	16

Local Population Data for Fareham

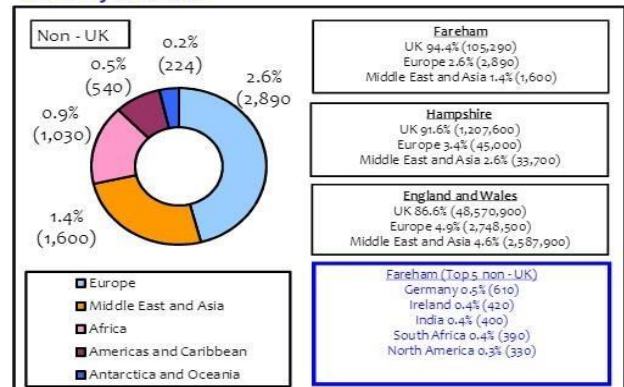
Ethnicity



94.7% of Fareham's resident population are 'White British'. Those in other ethnic groups account for 5.3%. The ethnic group 'White Other' accounts for 2.1% including both White Irish and Polish individuals, amongst others. The Asian ethnic group accounts for 1.5% encompassing Indian ethnicity, with others.

Source: Fareham equality and diversity profile

Country of Birth



94.4% of Fareham's population were born in the UK. At 2.6% Europe is the next largest, including Germany and Ireland in the top 5 above. The Middle East and Asia follows at 1.4% with India (0.4%) most prominent. Africa accounts for 0.9%, with South Africa at 0.4%.

Over the last 10 years Fareham has become more diverse. In 2011 95% of residents identified as White British; that figure has decreased to 93% in 2021.

Three per cent of people identified as non-white British with the remaining 4% of residents being made up of small proportions of other ethnic groups.



49%
number of fareham residents who say they are Christian (2021)

Religion remains important to many of our residents but numbers are declining. The number of people who now say they are Christian has decreased by 15% over the last 10 years from 64% in 2011 to 49% in 2021.

By contrast the number of people declaring they have no religion has risen by 17%, up from 27% in 2011 to 44% in 2021.

The number of people following other religions is relatively small:

341 Buddhist	401 Hindu	66 Jewish
714 Muslim	88 Sikh	491 Other

Equality Objectives Appendix B

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act
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- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, sex, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, students, parents and others in the following ways:

- Focus groups
- Parent questionnaires/coffee morning and evening discussions
- Involvement of the student council
- Staff survey and union representation meetings
- Contact with parents representing students with particular protected characteristics
- Contact with the local community and disability organisations
- Subject and pastoral leaders

Having referred to and analysed our equality information, and reflected on the feedback from our Ofsted inspection about students. *“A number of pupils, however, do not always think carefully about the language that they use which may be offensive to some protected groups”* we have set ourselves the following objective(s):

Objective 1: Increase the attendance and attainment of disadvantaged groups.

Objective 2: Create a coordinated system of monitoring, analysing and responding to incidents of prejudicial language.

- We are collecting data using a new reporting system and will compare against previous academic years in the Summer term.
- Incidents are responded to on the same day that they are reported to staff members.