



Lakelands
Academy

Equality and Public Sector Equality Duty

Next Review Autumn 2026

Lakelands Academy is committed to equality both as an employer and a service provider:

- We are committed to treating everyone fairly and with respect.
- We want to make sure that our school is a safe, secure and stimulating environment for **everyone**.
- We recognise that people have different needs and contexts, and we understand that treating people **equally** does not always involve treating them all exactly the same.
- We recognise that for some students, extra support is needed to help them to achieve and be successful.
- We try to make sure that people from different groups are consulted and involved in our decisions, for example through talking to students and parents/carers, the use of surveys, and through our Student Senate.
- We aim to make sure that no one experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination because of their age; any disability they may have; their ethnicity, colour or national origin; their gender; their gender identity or reassignment; their marital or civil partnership status; being pregnant or having recently had a baby; their religion or beliefs; their sexual identity and orientation.
- We welcome our general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations, and our specific duties to publish information every year about our school population; to explain how we have due regard for equality; and to publish equality objectives which show how we plan to tackle particular inequalities, and reduce or remove them.
- We are committed to developing community cohesion.
- We are vigilant in our attempts to 'narrow the gap' in achievement which affects, amongst others: CLA and previously CLA students, students who belong to low-income households and students known to be eligible for free school meals, students who are disabled, students who have special educational needs, students from minority racial, cultural or religious backgrounds.

In our most recent short Ofsted Inspections, 2022 and 2019, the following comments were made about equality in Lakelands Academy:

OFSTED 2022

“Pupils understand the values of respect and tolerance. They are aware of different cultures and religions. One pupil summed up views when they said, ‘No one should be treated less favourably because they belong to a specific group.’”

“Leaders have high ambitions for all pupils’ learning. Pupils, including those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), achieve well”

OFSTED 2019

“Parents and carers are positive about the school and are grateful for the care it provides for pupils.”

OFSTED 2019

“Pupils enjoy coming to school. They say that incidents of poor behaviour and bullying are rare and, when they do happen, staff deal with them well.”

OFSTED 2019

“The newly developed quality assurance systems, and the provision for staff development, are empowering all staff..... Staff made direct reference to this way of working as ‘Team Lakelands’.”

OFSTED 2022

“Pupils are given the opportunity to make positive changes in the school, such as starting a social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) pupils.”

The Kettlemere Centre

The Kettlemere Centre exemplifies the Lakelands commitment to equality of opportunity in education. Shared with Shropshire LA, it serves the needs of up to 25 children with EHCPs, for whom Autism is the primary area of need. Accessing mainstream school from the security and calm of the Centre, Kettlemere pupils receive bespoke support and intervention to allow them to increasingly access the mainstream curriculum and integrate with their peers. By Year 11, most are able to access mainstream for the majority academic lessons, and some social times. Kettlemere students are proud to be at Lakelands Academy, and to be members of the four ‘meres’ alongside their peers.

The Equality Act 2010 requires us to publish information that demonstrates that we have due regard for the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Information about the pupil population

The Academy has a PAN of 116 per year group, with an additional 5 students per year group on role at the Kettlemere Centre.

Information on pupils by protected characteristics

The Equality Act protects people from discrimination on the basis of ‘protected characteristics’. Every person has several of the protected characteristics, so the Act protects everyone against unfair treatment.

Disability

The Equality Act defines disability as when a person has a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.'

Lakelands Academy students with additional needs have their needs met through person centred planning with input from specialist outside agencies. They may have an EHCP. There are students at our school who fall within the four areas of need:

- **Physical and Sensory Impairment**
- **Communication and Interaction**
- **SEMH**
- **Cognition and Learning**

At the start of the 2025-26 academic year, when this policy was reviewed, our student population included:

SEN provision	Females	Males	Total	% of school population
No SEN	219	221	440	75.09
SEN support	38	66	104	17.75
GSP Funding	0	1	1	0.17
EHCP (inc. Kettlemere)	12	30	42	7.17
Grand Total	269	318	586	

Ethnicity and race	Females	Males	Total	% of school population
Any other Asian background	2	3	5	0.85
Any other ethnic group	0	3	3	0.51
Any other mixed background	0	1	1	0.17
Bangladeshi	0	1	1	0.17
Black North American	1	0	1	0.17
Chinese	2	0	2	0.34
Filipino	1	2	3	0.51
Indian	1	1	2	0.34
Information Not Yet Obtained	6	4	10	17.06
Kurdish	0	1	1	0.17

Other White British	1	4	5	0.85
Refused	1	1	2	0.34
Sri Lankan Tamil	0	1	1	0.17
White British	38	46	84	14.33
White – English	186	201	387	66.04
White – Welsh	17	27	44	7.51
White and Asian	1	1	2	0.34
White and Black African	1	0	1	0.17
White and Black Caribbean	0	2	2	0.34
White Eastern European	6	15	21	3.58
White Other	0	1	1	0.17
White Western European	0	2	2	0.34
Grand Total	269	317	586	

Religion and belief	Females	Males	Total	% of school population
Buddhist	1	0	1	0.17
Christian	105	130	235	40.10
Church of England	2	1	3	0.51
Hindu	1	1	2	0.34
Jehovah's Witness	0	1	1	0.17
Methodist	1	0	1	0.17
Muslim	1	6	7	1.19
Roman Catholic	0	1	1	0.17
Other Faith/Religion	0	6	6	1.02
No Religion	111	113	224	38.23
Unassigned	38	58	96	16.39
Grand Total	269	317	586	

Gender identity or reassignment

We do not collect this information on our students.

Sexual orientation

We do not collect this information on our students.

Information on other groups of pupils

Ofsted inspections look at how schools help "all pupils to make progress, including those whose needs, dispositions, aptitudes or circumstances require additional support."

In addition to pupils with protected characteristics, we wish to provide further information on the following groups of pupils:

	Females	Males	Total	% of school population
EAL	11	24	35	5.97
FSM	48	81	129	22.01
FSM/Ever 6	52	83	135	23.04
CLA or previously LAC	1	1	2	0.34

Our main equality challenge is to narrow the attainment gap and improve outcomes for all students regardless of special educational need, disability, race, ethnicity, socio economic group, sexual orientation, religion, health or gender reassignment.

How we ensure that we have due regard for equality at Lakelands Academy

Schools and academies are required to have due regard to the need to **eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation** and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. The information below is a summary of how we are aware of this particular requirement and how we respond to it:

- We are aware of the Equality Act 2010 which states that it is unlawful to discriminate, treat some people less fairly, or put them at a disadvantage.
- We keep an accurate record, where possible and appropriate, of the protected characteristics of our pupils and employees.
- We have a school Behaviour for Learning and Relationships policy that outlines our expectations of both students and staff in their interactions with each other.
- The Behaviour for Learning and Relationships Policy identifies our commitment to anti-bullying. It includes procedures for reporting and dealing with instances of bullying.

- We deal promptly and effectively with all incidents and complaints of bullying and harassment that may include cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying related to disability or special educational need, ethnicity or race, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, religion and belief and sexual orientation.
- We keep an electronic record of all such incidents and notify those affected of what action we have taken. We provide training to all staff in relation to dealing with bullying and harassment incidents.
- We have a Special Educational Needs policy that outlines the provision the school makes for students with special educational needs.
- We have policies to support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- We are DfE compliant regarding disability access.
- Our complaints procedure sets out how we deal with any complaints relating to the school.
- We aim to observe and implement the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in our employment practices.
- We pay due regard within our recruitment practices, to safeguarding and protecting our students.
- We have procedures for addressing staff discipline, conduct and grievances.
- We track the progress of students from protected groups via 4Matrix.
- We conduct risk assessments for pregnant staff.
- We conduct risk assessments for staff with disabilities .
- We conduct individual risk assessments for staff who are in Covid vulnerable groups.

Under the Equality Act 2010, we are also required to have due regard to the need to **advance equality of opportunity** and **foster good relations**. This includes steps we are taking to tackle disadvantage and meet the needs of particular individuals and groups of pupils.

Disability

We are committed to working for the equality of people with and without disabilities.

We are an inclusive school that pays due regard to the differences between our students, both those with and without disability. The school's SEND faculty and Pastoral Team work closely with students, their parents and staff in order to provide a high quality learning environment in order to eliminate inequality.

All SEND students have pupil passports and profiles of need which all teachers have access to; supporting them in delivering an accessible curriculum.

Lakelands Academy complies with access arrangements for students with disabilities. <https://www.lakelandsacademy.org.uk/media/21497/accessibility-plan.pdf>

How we advance equality of opportunity

- Policies: SEND Policy, Confidentiality Policy, CLA Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy, Safeguarding and KCSiE Child Protection Policy, School Access Plan, Behaviour Policy
- We are DDA compliant.
- Sharing medical data with staff on a need to know basis. e.g. Nut allergy for cooking/food tasting/lunches.
- School Designated Safeguarding Lead and DDSLs.
- Involve students fully with the creation and updating of pupil passports.
- Annual anti-bullying assemblies during Anti-bullying week.
- Consult families on developing areas of school provision
- Year 7 admissions procedures ensure equal access to all students with statements of SEND.
- We support disabled learners and staff by meeting their individual needs.
- We take steps (reasonable adjustments) to ensure that disabled students are not put at a disadvantage compared to other students.
- We carry out accessibility planning for disabled students that increases the extent to which they can participate in the curriculum, improves the physical environment of the school and increases the availability of accessible information to disabled students (eg lifts, specialised furniture, equipment)

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion:

- Display positive images and use resources that depict diversity.
- Fully involve parents with EHCP plans and PSP meetings.
- Rewards assemblies
- A curriculum that supports all students to understand, respect and value difference and diversity. (RE/PSHE/Drama/English/History)
- We enable all students to learn about the experiences of disabled people and the discriminatory attitudes they often experience.
- We tackle prejudice and any incidents of bullying based on disability.

What has been the impact of our activities?

- We have successfully integrated students with physical disabilities into the student body of the school so that they do not feel isolated or discriminated against.
- Kettlemere students access much of the curriculum in mainstream lessons
- Staff, parents and students have an understanding of ASC, and C+I challenges Kettlemere students face.
- We are increasingly involving disabled learners as class representatives in School Council and other student forums.

Ethnicity and race (including EAL)

We are committed to working for the equality of all ethnic groups.

How we advance equality of opportunity:

- School policies: Managing allegations against staff, Confidentiality Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Staff Code of Conduct
- We have a designated Safeguarding Team with regular team meetings
- We provide a curriculum that aims to eliminate discrimination.
- We consult families on areas of school provision. e.g. after school clubs.
- We identify students at risk of disadvantage and implement strategies to support them.
- We find creative solutions to support communication with families unable to access usual routes of communication.
- Using 4 Matrix, we monitor the attainment and progress of all our students by ethnicity.
- We set targets to improve the attainment and progression rates of particular groups of students.
- We identify and address barriers to the participation of particular groups in learning and other activities.
- We involve parents, carers and families in initiatives and interventions to improve outcomes for particular groups.
- All students are encouraged to take qualifications in their first language.

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion:

- Display positive images and use resources that depict diversity.
- We are developing a curriculum that supports all pupils to understand, respect and value difference and diversity.
- We provide all pupils with opportunities to learn about the experiences and achievements of different communities and cultures.
- We ensure that the curriculum challenges racism and stereotypes.
- We ensure students are educated on different religions, beliefs and significant events.

“Pupils understand the values of respect and tolerance. They are aware of different cultures and religions. (Ofsted 2022)

- We have successfully integrated students from diverse ethnic groups and /or with EAL into the student body of the school so that they do not feel isolated or discriminated against.
- Tradition of very popular GCSE RE.
- Thought for the Week, RE and PSHE promote and celebrate diverse cultures.
- Students themselves challenge racial stereotypes.

Gender

We are committed to working for the equality of women and men.

How we advance equality of opportunity:

- We monitor the attainment of all our students by gender.

- We set targets to improve the attainment and rates of progress of particular groups of boys and girls.
- We are identifying and addressing barriers to the participation of boys and girls in activities.
- We ensure that gender stereotypes in subject choices and careers advice are avoided and challenged.
- We ensure that young people have access to information about different sector workplaces and occupations to challenge outdated images and ideas about careers and employment.
- Both male and female parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in the work of the school and contribute to their children's learning and progress.
- We plan and deliver lessons with a variety of learning styles.
- Our approach to RSE is conducted within a framework which is based on the principles of respect, understanding and empathy towards others of different backgrounds, cultures, sexuality, feelings and views.
- We provide after school clubs and an extended school day for all students.
- 76% of staff are female (including 66.6% of teachers).
- 80% of our Year Leaders, 100% of our Pastoral Support Officers and 80% of Faculty Leaders are female.

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion:

- We ensure we respond to any sexist bullying or sexual harassment in line with academy policies.
- We encourage students to develop an understanding of the experiences of different genders in society and challenge sexism and negative stereotypes.
- We ensure the inclusion of positive, non stereotypical images of women and men, girls and boys across the curriculum.
- Students have numerous opportunities to develop team and leadership skills

What has been the impact of our activities?

- Strong take up of girls in STEM subjects
- Girls in Sport promotes sports like Rugby for girls – after school girls' rugby well attended
- Our PE department promotes equality of access and opportunity for all students.
- Strong representation of girls on School Council, ~~Eco-Council~~ and as House Sports Leaders
- Student leaders role models of both genders
- Student perception is not of 'boys' and 'girls' subjects at GCSE.

Pregnancy and maternity

We have no school based statistics.

How we advance equality of opportunity:

- The school provides sensitive and appropriate support to any member of the Lakelands community who is pregnant or who has recently had a baby, including respecting confidentiality when appropriate.
- We follow Health and Safety guidance for pregnancy.
- We follow best practice with regards to information, advice and guidance.
- We have a school counsellor.

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion:

We follow best practice with regards to information, advice and guidance.

What has been the impact of our activities? What do we plan to do next?

We will continue to support students in being aware of their relationships and safety in making healthy choices.

Religion and belief

We pride ourselves on the teaching of world religions in Religious Education, believing that it contributes to a positive learning environment and enhances community cohesion.

How we advance equality of opportunity:

Policies:

Confidentiality Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

School DSL team. RE policy

Our approach to RSE is conducted within a framework which is based on the principles of respect, understanding and empathy towards others of different backgrounds, cultures, sexuality, feelings and views.

All students in Key Stage 3 receive one hour of Religious Studies teaching per week.

All Key Stage 4 students receive two tutor periods of Religious Studies per week.

Traditionally nearly half a year group study a GCSE in Religious Studies.

Annual Anti-bullying assembly during Anti-bullying week.

Provide a curriculum that aims to eliminate discrimination.

Yearly assemblies for Holocaust Memorial day.

Holocaust modules co-ordinated between RS and History in Year 9

Consult families on areas of school provision. E.g., after school clubs.

Safeguarding training to staff.

The school is sensitive to the religious beliefs of its students and personalises its response accordingly to ensure that students are taking a full part in school life.

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion:

- Display positive images and use resources that depict diversity.
- Encourage students to explore human diversity in a supportive environment, where questions can be asked, and respectful debate is encouraged.
- Assemblies which celebrate world religions and share common humanity

- Via the taught curriculum – through RE, English, History, Geography PSHE, Drama
- Encourage the development of tolerance, understanding and compassion.
- Support young people to discuss how their belief impacts their lives (eg keeping the rules of Ramadan)

Sexual orientation

We are committed to providing a safe environment for all pupils. We aim to tackle any discrimination faced by pupils and staff who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Summary information (including data on gaps in attainment, inequalities that need to be addressed and relations between different groups of pupils)

We do not collect data on this area and have no school based statistics.

How we advance equality of opportunity:

- Behaviour for Learning and Relationships Policy.
- Collect data on bullying and report all incidents related to homophobia.
- The GCSE RE specification requires students to be taught about faith attitudes towards sexuality.
- Our approach to RSE is conducted within a moral and values framework which is based on the principles of respect, understanding and empathy towards others of different backgrounds, cultures, sexuality, feelings and views.
- Support students who wish to be known by a gender neutral name, and normalise use of that name

How we foster good relations and promote community cohesion

Students, parents, staff and other stakeholders are not discriminated against on the basis of their sexuality.

What has been the impact of our activities?

Increasing confidence of students to be open about their sexual orientation

Part 4: Our equality objectives

The Equality Act 2010 requires us to publish specific and measurable equality objectives. Our equality objectives are based on our analysis of data and other information. Our equality objectives focus on those areas where we have agreed to take action to improve equality and tackle disadvantages.

We will regularly review the progress we are making to meet our equality objectives.

Our Equality Objectives for 2025/2028 are:

- 1. To further improve levels of attendance and attainment across KS3 and KS4 and respond to variation between groups of learners, with a particular focus on disadvantaged students.**
- 2. For our school to be a place where everyone feels safe, respected and included. By living out the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance, we make sure every pupil has the chance to succeed and every family feels valued.**
- 3. To promote and support equal representation of all student demographics in leadership positions, including Student Senate, and other school leadership roles.**

Information about our employees

We do not have more than 150 employees, so we are not required to publish information about them.