

1 INTRODUCTION

Great Academies Education Trust recognises that certain groups in society have historically been disadvantaged because of unlawful discrimination they have faced due to their race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

This policy will put in place a range of actions to eliminate prejudice, unlawful discrimination and victimisation within the school community and workforce.

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics). This means that academies cannot discriminate against pupils or treat them less favourably because of their sex (gender), race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or pregnancy or maternity. Age and marriage and civil partnership are also “protected characteristics” but are not a direct part of the academies provisions related to pupils (however the Trust recognises its role in promoting equality within its wider communities). This requires all public organisations, including academies to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Additionally, academies must:

Advance equality of opportunity between different groups,
Foster good relations between different groups.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

We see all learners are of equal value, whether or not they are disabled, whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status, whatever their gender and gender identity, whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background and whatever their sexual orientation.

We recognize, respect and value difference and understand that diversity is a strength. We take account of differences and strive to remove barriers and disadvantages which people may face, in relation to disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, belief or faith and sexual orientation. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit our academies.

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We foster positive attitudes and relationships. We actively promote positive attitudes and mutual respect between groups and communities different from each other.

We foster a shared sense of cohesion and belonging. We want all members of our academies community to feel a sense of belonging within their respective academy, within the Trust and within the wider community and to feel that they are respected and able to participate fully in academy life.

We observe good equalities practice for our staff. We ensure that policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees in all aspects of their work, including in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development.

We have the highest expectations of all our pupils. We expect that all pupils can make good progress and achieve to their highest potential.

We work to raise standards for all pupils, but especially for the most vulnerable. We believe that improving the quality of education for the most vulnerable groups of pupils raises standards across the whole of the Trust and within each academy.

The school's Admissions Policy will not discriminate against any protected characteristic in any way.

The school will:

- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities, given necessary training and support, and report progress to the governing board.
- Ensure that the recording and reporting of equality and diversity is sufficiently scrutinised.
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, a shared sense of cohesion and belonging, and ensure this is promoted in our policies, procedures and activities.
- Observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development, and ensure that all policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees regardless of any protected characteristic, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.
- Reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.
- Engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy, procedure or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones.

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- Ensure that policies, procedures and activities benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in the public life of everyone, regardless of any protected characteristic.
- Ensure staff promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenging inappropriate language and behaviour, responding appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, and showing appropriate support for pupils with additional needs, maintaining a good level of awareness of issues surrounding equality.

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This policy also has due regard for non-statutory guidance, including the following:

- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'

The Equality Act 2010 provides a modern, single legal framework with three broad duties:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the purpose of this policy, the Equality Act 2010 will be referred to as 'the Act'.

The school fully understands the principles of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equal opportunities.

Protected characteristics, under the Act, are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnicity

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- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- In relation to admissions.
- In the way it provides education for pupils.
- In the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service.
- By excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The responsible body for the school is the proprietor.

The school’s liability not to discriminate, harass or victimise does not end when a pupil has left the school, but will apply to subsequent actions connected to the previous relationship between school and pupil, such as the provision of references on former pupils or access to “old pupils” communications and activities

The school will promote equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and will work in line with the Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work Policy.

4 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

4.1 Collecting and using information

The school will collect equality information for the purpose of:

- Identifying key issues, e.g. unlawful discrimination in teaching methods.
- Assessing performance, e.g. benchmarking against similar organisations locally or nationally.
- Taking action, e.g. adapting working practice to accommodate the needs of staff who share protected characteristics.

The school will build an equality profile for staff to assist with identifying any issues within their recruitment regime. The school will obtain the following information from their staff:

- Recruitment and promotion
- Numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- Pay and remuneration
- Training
- Return to work of women on maternity leave

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- Return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disabilities
- Appraisals
- Grievances (including about harassment)
- Disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- Dismissals and other reasons for leaving

Any personal data the school collects will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

4.2 Publishing Information

The school will publish information to demonstrate its compliance with the Act.

The school will publish information relating to persons within the school community who share relevant protected characteristics, these will include:

- The school’s employees
- Other persons affected by the school’s policies and procedures

The school will not provide this information if:

- The employee is employed under contract personally to do work.
- The employer does not have, and it is not reasonably practicable for the employer to obtain the data.
- The school will publish findings in their annual report.

The school will publish the following information annually with regard to the gender pay gap:

- The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male and female full-pay relevant employees
- The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male and female full-pay relevant employees
- The difference between the mean bonus pay paid to male and female employees
- The difference between the median bonus pay paid to male and female employees
- The proportions of male and female relevant employees who were paid bonus pay
- The proportions of male and female full-pay relevant employees in lower, lower middle, upper middle, and upper quartile pay bands

4.3 Promoting Equality

In order to meet our objectives, the Trust has identified the following priorities:

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1. To promote cultural understanding and awareness of different religious beliefs between different ethnic groups within our academies and local communities.
2. To monitor and promote the involvement of all groups of pupils in the extra-curricular life of the academies, including leadership opportunities, especially pupils with special educational needs.
3. To close gaps in attainment and achievement between pupils and all groups of pupils; especially boys and girls, pupils eligible for free-school meals, pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children and pupils from different heritage groups.
4. To endeavour to ensure that the staff body and representation of staff in leadership roles is reflective of the local community.
5. To reduce the incidence of the use of homophobic, sexist and racist language by pupils.

4.4 Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance

The Trust Policy on Behaviour takes full account of the duties under the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustment for pupils with a disability. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from each academy for evidence of over-representation of different groups and take action promptly to address concerns.

Addressing prejudice and prejudice based bullying: The academies challenge all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality: - prejudices around disability and special educational needs - prejudices around race, religion or belief, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum - prejudices around gender and sexual orientation, including homophobic and transphobic attitudes

We treat all bullying incidents equally seriously. We keep a record of different prejudice-related incidents and a report is provide to the governors and the Trustees about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how we have dealt with them. We review this data regularly and take action to reduce incidents.

4.5 What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups.

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- We know the needs of our academies population very well and collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and identify targets to achieve improvements.
- We have procedures, working in partnership with parents and carers, to identify children who have a disability through our pupil admissions meetings.
- We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils and use this data to support academy improvement.
- We take action to close any gaps, for example, for those making slow progress in acquiring age appropriate literacy and number skills.
- We collect, analyse and publish data: on the school population by gender and ethnicity; on the % of pupils identified as having a special educational need and/or disability and by their principal need or disability; by year group – in terms of ethnicity, gender and proficiency in English; on inequalities of outcome and participation, related to ethnicity, gender and disability and proficiency in English.
- We collect, analyse and use data in relation to attendance and exclusions of different groups.
- We avoid language that runs the risk of placing a ceiling on any pupils' achievement or that seeks to define their potential as learners, such as "less able".
- We use a range of teaching strategies that ensures we meet the needs of all pupils.
- We provide support to pupils at risk of underachieving.
- We are alert and proactive about the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender, disability and sexuality. In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between, for example: - disabled and non- disabled people - people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds - girls and boys.
- We ensure equality of access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum, removing barriers to participation where necessary.

4.6 Addressing prejudice-related incidents

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that pupils and staff who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fare less well in the education system.

The school will ensure that pupils and staff are aware of the impact of prejudice in order to prevent any incidents from occurring.

If incidents continue to occur, the school will address them immediately and report them to the LA.

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4.7 What we are doing to foster good relations

We prepare our pupils for life in a diverse society and ensure that there are activities across the curriculum that promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

We teach about difference and diversity and the impact of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination through PSHE and citizenship and across the curriculum. We use materials and resources that reflect the diversity of each academy, population and local community in terms of race, gender, sexual identity and disability, avoiding stereotyping. We promote a whole academy ethos and values that challenge prejudice based discriminatory language, attitudes and behaviour.

We provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures. We include the contribution of different cultures to world history and that promote positive images of people.

We provide opportunities for pupils to listen to a range of opinions and empathise with different experiences.

We promote positive messages about equality and diversity through displays, assemblies, visitors, whole academy events.

4.8 Curriculum

All pupils will be entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum and to teaching and learning opportunities which meet their needs, including extra support where this has been identified as a statutory need.

When planning the curriculum, the school will take every opportunity to promote and advance equality.

When teaching the curriculum, the school will promote equality and will not subject individuals to discrimination.

The school will develop an appropriate curriculum for all pupils in all vulnerable groups.

The school will ensure PSHE lessons are designed for pupils to develop their knowledge of the world and the importance of equality.

4.9 Equal Opportunities for staff

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We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment. All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law. We are also concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the school reflects the diversity of our community.

As an employer we strive to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce. We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

We ensure that all staff members, including support and administrative staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We expect all members of each academy community to support our commitment to promoting equalities and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We will provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with The Equality Act.
- The Board will receive reports on compliance with the equality & diversity requirements from each Local Governing Body and will ensure that there is both legislative compliance and policy compliance.
- Ensure that the school’s Admissions Policy does not discriminate in any way.
- Meet its obligations under the PSED to publish equality objectives at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.
- Ensure equal opportunities in its staff recruitment and promotion practices, professional development programmes and in membership of the governing board.
- Proactively recruit high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.
- Ensure that the necessary disciplinary measures are in place to enforce this policy.

Local Governing Committee

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- Ensure that the school’s policies and procedures are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans.
- To provide the Board with reports on compliance with the equality & diversity requirements and ensure that there is both legislative compliance and policy compliance.
- Proactively recruit high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.
- Provide information in appropriate and accessible formats.
- Ensure that the necessary disciplinary measures are in place to enforce this policy.

Principals and Leadership team

- Implement this policy and its procedures.
- Ensure that all staff members receive the appropriate equality and diversity training as part of their induction and CPD.
- Ensure that all parents, visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the provisions of this policy.
- Actively challenge and take appropriate action in any case of discriminatory practice.
- Address any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with DfE guidance.
- Produce an annual report on the progress of implementing the provisions of this policy and report it to the Local Governing Committee and Trust Board.
- The school will have an equality page on its website, in order to demonstrate how it is complying with the PSED in the Equality Act 2010, and advancing equality of opportunity.

Employees

- Be mindful of any incidents of harassment or bullying in the school.
- Address any minor issues of harassment or bullying and report any major breaches of the policy to the Principal.
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and the school’s culture.
- Promote equality and good relations, and not harass or discriminate in any way.
- Monitor pupils’ progress and academic needs to ensure the appropriate support is in place.
- Keep up-to-date with equality legislation and its application by attending the appropriate training.

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Pupils will

- Not discriminate or harass any other pupil or staff member.
- Actively encourage equality and diversity in the school by contributing their cultural experiences and values.
- Report any incidences of bullying or harassment, whether to themselves or to others, to the head of year or to another member of staff.
- Abide by all the school's equality and diversity policies, procedures and codes.

Visitors

- All visitors to an academy, including parents and carers are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy.

6 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy should be read in conjunction with;

GAET HR policies

Behaviour policy

Anti-bullying policy

SEN policy

Attendance policy

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Appendix 1

Transgender Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to explain the Trust's good practice in the field of Transgender consideration in order to minimise the distress and disruption to all students by:

- ensuring teachers and Governors are dealing with Transgender matters inclusively and sensitively;
- providing an inclusive environment for any Transgender student;
- ensuring all students are aware of and educated on issues of Transgender.

Transgender Identity

A Transgender person feels that their external appearance (*sex*) does not match up with the way they feel internally about their gender identity. A Female to Male (*F2M*) person will have the external appearance or body of a female and identify their gender as male; a Male to Female (*M2F*) person will have the external appearance or body of a male and identify their gender as female.

The word Transgender is sometimes used interchangeably with the term *gender-variant* but usually has a narrower meaning and different connotations than gender variant, including non-identification with the gender assigned at birth. Children and students that experience or show gender variance may or may not be transsexual, as some will not retain their gender variance following puberty because gender variance can be fluid.

Gender Dysphoria (*or Gender Identity Disorder*) is a clinical condition that can present from as early as age 2 and can only be diagnosed by a medical and/or psychiatric expert. A person diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria may require treatment, e.g. hormone blockers (currently not available in the UK under the age of 16), to ameliorate the symptoms associated with being Transgender. A Transgender person may live their life without being or needing to be diagnosed as having Gender Dysphoria.

Diagnosis and treatment for young people is currently only possible through a specialist team from the Tavistock clinic in London (*the Tavistock hold regular satellite clinics in Exeter*). It must be understood that some people with Gender Dysphoria may not want any treatment. Some may choose to be known by a different name or to wear different clothes. However, most or all young Transgender people (and their families) will need some expert support as they grow up and develop.

Legislation

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Data Protection Act 1998 (UK)

Information about a person’s Transgender status is considered “sensitive personal data” and is subject to tighter controls than other personal data. Explicit consent is required before it can be processed.

- Personal data must be looked after properly following the eight data protection principles, which include ensuring personal data is accurate, secure and processed fairly and lawfully.
- Failure to change a person’s title, name and gender when requested could lead to the following offences under the Act.
 - Disclosure of personal information that is used, held or disclosed unfairly, or without proper security
 - Failure to ensure personal information is accurate and up-to-date
 - Processing of data likely to cause distress to the individual

The Human Rights Act 1998

The following Articles from The Human Rights Act 1998 support the rights and needs of Transgender people to live their lives in their true gender.

- Article 8: right to respect for private life and family life
- Article 10: freedom of expression
- Article 14: the prohibition of discrimination

The Gender Recognition Act 2004

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 is mainly concerned with the process by which a person can get a Gender Recognition Certificate, and correct their original birth certificate to match their true gender. This can only occur after a person reaches 18 years of age but is something that many younger people may aspire to.

Equality Act 2010 (Great Britain)

The Equality Act 2010 ensures legal protection against discrimination, harassment and victimisation (direct or indirect) for everyone under the nine protected characteristics defined in the Act, one of which is Gender Reassignment (also known as Transgender).

Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010 makes it clear that the Act specifically refers to Academy and young people.

The Equality Act 2010 (2:1:7) states that:

A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person’s sex by changing

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physiological or other attributes of sex.

The Act applies to employment, education and a range of other areas where discrimination may take place. In order to be protected under the Act, a student will not necessarily have to be undergoing a medical procedure to change their sex, but they must be taking steps to live in the opposite gender, or be proposing to do so.

Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999

- Individuals who intend to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment are protected from discrimination in work, academy and vocational training (including higher education study).
- Less favourable treatment relating to absences arising from gender reassignment is unlawful if:
 - the treatment is less favourable than if it had been due to sickness or injury
 - the treatment is less favourable than if it had been due to some other cause
and, having regard to the circumstances of the case, it is reasonable not to be treated less favourably.
- Less favourable treatment includes the arrangements relating to terms and conditions or arrangements under which employment, education or vocational training is offered.

Discrimination

As stated, The Equality Act 2010 ensures legal protection against discrimination in employment, education, the provision of services and the delivery of public functions, in relation to the nine protected characteristics defined in the Act, one of which is Gender Reassignment.

The legislation states that an academy must not discriminate against a student because of their Transgender status. Discrimination can be direct or indirect. Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision, criterion or practice applies to everyone but puts a person with a particular protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage, and it cannot be justified as a proportionate means of meeting a legitimate aim. An example might be an inflexible academy uniform rule which offers no “unisex” options such as trousers for girls, and which would therefore create a particular difficulty for a F2M student.

Academy Attendance

The Trust and its academies will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate absence requests for treatment and external sources in line with their absence policy. Sensitive care will be taken when recording the reason for absence.

Transphobia and Bullying

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The Trust and its academies have a robust anti-bullying policy. In line with this policy, transphobia incidents will be recorded and dealt with in the same manner as other incidents that are motivated by prejudice, e.g. racist or homophobic incidents.

Training

In order to ensure all staff and Governors have the skills to deal with Transgender issues, the Trust and academies will hold training sessions on topics such as:

- Safe Guarding
- Confidentiality
- Gender Identity
- Tackling transphobia
- Relevant legislation

All topics will be covered during any INSET programme and will be revisited annually.

The Curriculum

The issues connected to Transgender will be visited for all students during curriculum time during the PSHE programme. These issues will also be touched upon during other subjects.

Physical Education

Sports and Physical Education is a key aspect of the national curriculum and the physical and mental well-being of young people. Physical Education develops students' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of the academies. A young Transgender person has the same right to Physical Education as other young people.

With regard to young Transgender people, there should be reasonably few, if any, issues regarding participation within the sports of their true gender. There may be sports where, as puberty develops, M2F Transgender participants may have a physical advantage over other girls but this should not present a problem within a carefully and sensitively managed lesson context. The issue of physical risk within certain sports should also be managed properly within the lesson context rather than preventing young Transgender people from participating (which would be discriminatory).

It may be that due to the nature of contact and physicality of sports such as rugby, the academy would consider whether a Transgender person participating in full contact lessons is appropriate towards the latter stages of puberty. This is something that the academies will take a view on prior to the delivery of

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those lessons, in discussion with parents or guardians.

The use of changing room facilities will also be carefully considered. Facilities for Transgender participants will be sensitive to their needs and also recognise the needs and sensitivities of other students. When competing at another academy or outside venue, academy staff must ensure there is appropriate sensitive provision available.

Work Experience

As already stated, the Equality Act 2010 encompasses every environment that pupils will be working in, therefore all placements should be aware of their duties and responsibilities. Where the academy is considering allowing a Transgender young person to attend a work experience placement the academy will complete a suitable assessment on the potential placement to establish if there is any risk to the young Transgender person, taking account of the young Transgender person's right to privacy – as a general principle, personal information on the young Transgender person must not be shared.

The Trust and its academies will be sensitive to this in their planning before any young Transgender person is placed in any business or organisation. Careful discussion about the placement with the student and parents or guardians, will occur to find the most suitable way forward to ensure the placement is successful.

Changing/Toilet Facilities

Provision will exist for unisex toilets. Transgender students will be able to use these facilities which have been labelled sensitively and appropriately. E a c h a c a d e m y has conducted an audit of the appropriateness of the facilities.

Academy Uniform

Transgender students will be expected to follow the a c a d e m y Uniform Policy, which covers uniform, make-up and jewellery.

There is a generally broad range of uniform available for both genders (i.e. girls and boys can wear trousers and all students must wear a blazer, shirt and tie).

Name Changing and Exam Certification

If a Transgender student wishes to have their preferred name recognised on academy systems, this will be supported and will feed on to letters home, report cycles, bus pass information etc. Furthermore, the change of name and associated gender identity will be respected and accommodated by an a c a d e m y. It is a real indicator that the Transgender student is taking steps to, or proposing to move towards a gender they feel they wish to live in.

Technically, students can be entered under any name with an Examination Board. However, it is a very complex matter. Once a result is accredited it will need to be

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linked with a Unique Pupil Number (UPN) or Unique Learner Number (ULN) which existed in the academy census information submitted in January of the examination year. UPNs and ULNs are only linked with legal names, not preferred names. It is possible for examination certificates to be issued in the preferred name, but any young person finding themselves in this position should discuss this issue with their Head of Year and parents or guardians to ensure the best way forward.

Academies are encouraged to ensure a strategy is agreed with the student and their parents or guardians, then agreed with the various Examination Boards prior to starting GCSE courses as some examinations may be sat in year 10 and the length of time the process re-registering may take. Academies will also need to be aware that the DfE analysis of academy performance may still present the student in the gender registered by their UPN.

It is possible for any document to be changed to reflect the chosen name of the young person. Changing the gender recorded on a birth certificate is not possible until a Gender Recognition Certificate has been issued. In order to change a name on other official documents such as a passport, it might be necessary for evidence of change of name to be produced: there are two main ways in which this can be done, by deed poll and by statutory declaration. The Citizens Advice Bureau and other Transgender support organisations will have more information on this subject. A person under 16 years of age cannot change their name legally without the consent of a parent.

Vaccinations

Each academy will allow any gender specific vaccinations to be carried out at the GP's surgery in order to eliminate any embarrassment.

Visits

Learning about different cultures and lives and taking part in activities may lead to overnight stays, both at home and abroad. Issues may arise for both young Transgender students and other students but this must not mean Transgender students cannot be included on the visit. Each academy will give consideration well in advance of any additional needs which may include having a parent or guardian (or member of staff) accompanying the visit to ensure the Transgender student is fully included.

The sleeping arrangements will be considered before a visit is undertaken; it is possible that the Transgender student would prefer to have a separate room etc. Each individual case and visit needs to be considered separately and in depth discussions will happen well in advance, with all appropriate bodies, linked to the accommodation available.

With regards to a visit abroad, anyone can be searched at borders and other places. Different countries will have policies and procedures they will follow. The Trust and each academy will contact the relevant border

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control or agency in advance to ensure that any policy or risk assessment completed by the academy is accurate for that visit.

There are countries that are not as legally and culturally open as the UK. In fact, some have laws that make it illegal to be part of the Transgender community. Some countries even make it an offence not to report to the authorities that someone is part of the Transgender community. The Trust will consider and investigate the laws regarding Transgender communities in any country considered for an academy visit.

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