

# Benjamin Britten School



## Gender Separation Statement

Nov 2024

This document links to the Equality Information and Objectives Statement

## The aims of the Gender Separation Statement are as follows:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity between genders
- Remove or minimise disadvantage
- Encouraging both genders to participate in public life or in other activities where their representation is disproportionately low.
- Foster good relationships between genders and tackle any prejudice-related incidents
- Recognise and tackle bias and stereotyping

## Separation

Children at Benjamin Britten School are not generally separated by reference to protected characteristics such as sex, race or faith. However there are some statutory exceptions:

### *Single-Sex Sports*

Section 195 of the Act contains an exception, which permits single-sex sports. A “gender-affected activity” is a sport, game or other activity of a competitive nature in circumstances where the physical strength, stamina or physique of the average girl (or boy) would put her (or him) at a disadvantage in competition with the average boy (or girl). At Benjamin Britten we have gender specific and mixed gender groupings e.g. a boys-only football team, or a girls-only hockey team. However, the school still allow girls, or boys equal opportunities to participate in the same or comparable sporting activities e.g. girls’ football or girls’ rugby.

### *Equality of Opportunity within curriculum design*

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum has at its heart a strong academic, knowledge rich foundation. The curriculum remains broad and varied with high academic/vocational/technical ambition for all pupils. For example, within the technology rotation all children are given the opportunity to learn practical design technology skills e.g. textiles, carpentry and metal work, food technology and programming. At Key Stage 4 all option classes are available with parity of entry.

### *Positive Action and single-sex activities*

It is also the case that there will be instances where separating by sex is appropriate and lawful. For example; actions designed to achieve the aim of enabling or encouraging girl or boy pupils to overcome or minimise the disadvantage, to meet the sex-specific needs or to enable or encourage participation for example; STEM enrichment activities for girls (where there is clear evidence girls’ participation in STEM subjects is lower than it should be), additional interventions for Free School Meal boys to ensure they make the same progress as boys not within these groups.

All of our PSHE lessons are mixed gender, but it would be lawful to teach sex education and elements of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education to single-sex classes or assemblies because boys and girls may have different needs in this context.

### *Negligible and exceptional separation*

Apart from the statutory exceptions, there may be occasions where the school can lawfully separate boys and girls if the separation can be considered negligible in its effect on the ability of pupils of both sexes to mix, socialise or learn from and with each other.

The school has separate toilet and changing facilities which are of the same high standard of finish.