

Equality Objectives Schools need to update their progress against their Equality Objectives by 1st April 2017. The DfE's guidance on the Equality Act 2010 has advice on producing equality objectives.

Paragraph 5.28 suggests areas that these objectives might address, which include:

- Increasing participation by black pupils in after-school activities
- Narrowing the gap in performance of pupils with disabilities
- Reducing exclusion rates for black boys
- Increasing understanding between religious groups
- Reducing the number of homophobic incidents
- Encouraging girls to consider non-stereotyped career options
- Anticipating the needs of incoming pupils from a new group, such as traveller children

Paragraph 5.26 explains that: Objectives are not intended to be burdensome or a 'tick-box' exercise, but they do need to be specific and measurable. They should be used as a tool to help improve the school experience of a range of different pupils.

A school should set as many objectives as it believes are appropriate to its size and circumstances; the objectives should fit the school's needs and should be achievable.

A representative from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said that, although neither the DfE nor the EHRC specify how many objectives must be published per school, it is regarded as best practice for a school to develop more than one equality objective. This is because in most cases a school will be able to improve equality for more than one protected group, or for one protected group in multiple areas.