

St John's Catholic Primary School

Single Equalities Policy

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1. Statement of Principles

This policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of St John's Catholic Primary School to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school, this means not simply treating everyone the same, but understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of pupils in school, whilst celebrating and valuing the achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:

- Pupils
- Staff
- Parents / Carers
- The governing body
- Multi agency staff linked to the school
- Visitors to school
- Students on placement

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

At St John's Catholic Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everybody has the opportunity to fulfil their potential – in line with the 9 protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010, which are gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

2. School in Context

St John's Catholic Primary School is situated in the village of Burscough in West Lancashire. With constant development of new housing estates and apartments, Burscough's population has recently rapidly grown and the two communities have long since melded together. At the 2001 Census, the population of the parish stood at 8,968.

At St John's Catholic Primary School,

- There are currently 101 pupils on roll, 48 boys and 53 girls.
- 2 pupils are Polish and English is their second language.
- 25 children are on the SEN register, including 3 pupils with an EHCP.

- 62 pupils are catholic and 39 children are other.
- There are 7 children adopted from care
- The school is fully accessible and has wheel chair access. There is a disabled toilet.
- No children are recorded as disabled.

This information is collected and updated each term using the school census collection.

3. Ethos and Atmosphere

At St John's Catholic Primary School, the leadership of the school will demonstrate mutual respect between all members of the school community. There is an openness of atmosphere which welcomes everyone to the school. All within the school community will challenge any type of discriminatory and/or bullying behaviour, e.g. through unwanted attentions (verbal or physical) and unwelcome or offensive remarks or suggestions. All pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with friendliness and respect. The displays around the school are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality of opportunity and are frequently monitored. Provision is made to cater for the spiritual needs of all the children through the delivery of the Come and See Religious Education scheme of work, planning of assemblies and collective worship.

We develop our Faith by valuing and encouraging the good things in every person and fostering positive relationships. Everybody is treated fairly and we celebrate difference through our understanding of other faiths.

We nurture the potential of every individual by giving children the opportunity and encouragement to try new things. We recognise that each individual learns in their own different way and we create an inclusive learning culture, classroom community, delivering collaborative and personalised learning which helps to build the self-esteem of each individual. We use a range of teaching styles to cater for all abilities and learning styles and we embrace all opportunities to experience the joy of discovery, solving problems and being creative.

We work in partnership with home, parish and the wider community by valuing an open dialogue between school and home by inviting parents to information evenings and pupil progress meetings. We involve ourselves in community events and welcome parents and friends of the school to celebrations, acts of collective worship and assemblies. We support the parish in meaningful preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and support those less fortunate through fundraising, e.g. CAFOD, Good Shepherd.

4. Policy Development

This policy applies to the whole school community. It has been drawn up as a result of the outcomes of a transparent process and through consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors. The Equality Toolkit has been used to undertake a whole school equality analysis. A working group from the school has gathered up existing information related to the school

community with regard to equality and have organised and examined the data. From this, a list of actions was compiled and priorities identified. The equality objectives have been published on the school website alongside other equality information.

5. Monitoring and Review

St John's Catholic Primary is an inclusive school, working towards greater equality in the whole school community. We use the curriculum and teaching to enhance the self-esteem of all those it serves and to provide a learning environment in which each individual is encouraged to fulfil her or his potential.

We collect and analyse a range of equality information for our pupils:

- Attainment data
- Attendance data
- Exclusions
- Involvement with extended learning opportunities / extra-curricular activities
- Complaints of bullying or harassment
- Parents surveys
- Staff and governor profiles

We ensure that these are analysed by ethnicity, disability, gender, free school meals (FSM), English as an additional Language (EAL). This analysis then forms part of the action plan.

We make regular assessments of pupils' learning and use this information to track pupils' progress, as they move through the school. As part of this process, we regularly monitor the performance of different groups, to ensure that all groups of pupils are making the best possible progress. We use this information to adjust future teaching and learning plans, as necessary.

Resources are available to support groups of pupils where the information suggests that progress is not as good as it should be. The governing body receives regular updates on pupil performance information. School performance information is compared to national data and local authority data, to ensure that pupils are making appropriate progress when compared to all schools, and to schools in similar circumstances.

As well as monitoring pupil performance information, we also regularly monitor a range of other information. This relates to:

- Attendance
- Exclusions and truancy
- Racism, disablism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and all forms of bullying
- Parental involvement
- Participation in extended learning opportunities

Our monitoring activities enable us to identify any differences in pupil performance and provide specific support as required, including pastoral support. This allows us to take

appropriate action to meet the needs of specific groups in order to make necessary improvements.

St John's Catholic Primary School is also committed to providing a working environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation. We aim to recruit an appropriately qualified workforce and establish a governing body that is representative of all sections of the community in order to respect and respond to the diverse needs of our population.

The Employment Duty within the legislation states all schools should collect information on staff in post, and applicants for employment, training and promotion. At St John's, we collect and analyse a range of profile information for our staff. We have 14 members of staff.

- Gender – 13 female, 1 male
- Disability – 0 disability
- Ethnicity – 14 white British
- Religion – collected on application forms
- Age – collected on application forms

This information is updated annually and recorded on the school workforce census.

We collect and analyse a range of profile information for our staff and governors:

- Applicants for employment
- Attendance at training events
- Disciplinary and grievance cases
- Staff appraisal/performance management

Confidentiality is always maintained in all cases.

We have identified the following issues from the analysis of the data:

- To develop children's understanding of their own and other religions and beliefs.
- To actively encourage FSM, EAL and children of a different ethnicity children to participate in activities of interest to them – use of pupil premium to fund these activities if needed.
- To monitor attendance for groups, particularly FSM and boys.
- To continue to replace internal doors with those with visibility panels.

Due regard is given to the promotion of equality in the School Improvement Plan. The people responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan is Mrs Devey
Her role is to:

- Lead discussions, organise training, update staff in staff meetings, support discussions
- Work with the governing body on matters relating to equality
- Support evaluation activities that moderate the impact and success of this policy

6. Developing Best Practice

Learning and Teaching

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, teaching and learning will:

- Provide equality of access for all pupils and prepare them for life in a diverse society
- Use materials that reflect a range of cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping
- Use materials to promote a positive image of and attitude towards disability and disabled people
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour
- Provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate their own culture and religions and celebrate the diversity of other cultures
- Use a range of sensitive teaching strategies when teaching about different cultural and religious traditions
- Develop pupils advocacy skills so that they can detect bias, challenge discrimination, leading to justice and equality
- Ensure that the whole curriculum covers issues of equality and diversity;
- All subject leaders' departments, where appropriate, promote and celebrate the contribution of different cultures to the subject matter
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education
- Provide educational visits and extended learning opportunities that involve all pupil groups
- Take account of the performance of all pupils when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets
- Make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all groups of pupils
- Identify resources and training that support staff development.

Learning Environment

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils regardless of any protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) or any other recognised area of discrimination. All pupils are encouraged to improve on their own achievements and not to measure themselves against others. Parents are also encouraged to view their own children's achievements in this light.

- Teacher enthusiasm is a vital factor in achieving a high level of motivation and good results from all pupils.
- Adults in the school will provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity.
- The school places a very high priority on the provision for special educational needs and disability.
- We will meet all pupils' learning needs including the more able by carefully assessed and administered schemes of work which are tailored towards the needs of our children.
- The school provides an environment in which all pupils have equal access to all facilities and resources.
- All pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning.

- A range of teaching methods are to be used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils.
- Consideration is given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage.

Curriculum

At St John's Catholic Primary school, the curriculum is consistently reviewed and we aim to ensure that:

- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality, equity and diversity.
- Pupils will have opportunities to explore concepts and issues relating to identity and equality.
- Steps are taken to ensure that all pupils have access to the mainstream curriculum by taking into account their cultural, backgrounds, linguistic needs and learning styles.
- All pupils are assessed and we recognise attainment and achievement and promote progression.

Resources and Materials

The provision of good quality resources and materials within St John's Catholic Primary school is a high priority. These resources:

- Reflect the reality of an ethnically, culturally and sexually diverse society.
- Reflect a variety of viewpoints.
- Show positive images of males and females in society and of different family contexts.
- Include non-stereotypical images of all groups in a global context.
- Be accessible to all members of the school community.

Language

We recognise that it is important at St John's Catholic Primary school that all members of the school community use appropriate language which:

- Does not transmit or confirm stereotypes.
- Does not offend.
- Creates and enhances positive images of particular groups identified at the beginning of this document.
- Creates the conditions for all people to develop their self-esteem.
- Uses accurate language in referring to particular groups or individuals and challenges in instances where this is not the case.

Extended Learning Opportunities

It is the policy of this school to provide equal access to all activities from an early age.

We undertake responsibility for making contributions to extended learning opportunities and are aware of the school's commitment to equality of opportunity by providing them with written guidelines drawn from this policy. We have achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom gold mark and are a Forest School.

We try to ensure that all such non staff members who have contact with children adhere to these guidelines.

Provision for Bi-lingual Pupils

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we make appropriate provision for all EAL/bi-lingual children/groups to ensure access to the whole curriculum. These groups may include:

- Pupils for whom English is an additional language
- Pupils who are new to the United Kingdom
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children
- Advanced bi-lingual learners

Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance

- Staff take account of protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) or any other recognised area of discrimination and the lived experience and needs of particular groups such as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, refugee and asylum seeker pupils.
- All pupils are encouraged to consider the full range of career opportunities available to them with no discriminatory boundaries placed on them due to their disability, gender, race or sexual orientation (whilst acknowledging that a disability may impose some practical boundaries to some career aspirations).
- All pupils/staff/parents/carers are given support, as appropriate, when they experience discrimination.
- We recognise that perpetrators may also be victims and require support.
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of pupils can see themselves reflected in the school community.
- Emphasis is placed on the value that diversity brings to the school community rather than the challenges.

Staffing and Staff Development

We recognise the need for positive role models and distribution of responsibility among staff.

- This must include pupils' access to a balance of male and female staff at all key stages where possible.
- We encourage the career development and aspirations of all school staff.

- It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which will increase awareness of the needs of different groups of pupils.
- It is our policy to provide staff with training and development, which enables them to confidently carry out their roles and responsibilities in relation to equality as identified in section 7.
- Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds.

Staff Recruitment

- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and ensure equality good practice through the recruitment and selection process.
- Equalities policies and practices are covered in all staff inductions.
- All temporary staff are made aware of policies and practices.
- Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact.

Note:

Under the Equality Act 2010, in very limited circumstances, an employer can claim that a certain religious denomination or belief is considered to be a genuine occupational requirement of that role. An aided school may be able to rely on this for some roles in school, particularly those roles that provide spiritual leadership. However this would not apply for all staff in School.

In addition, there are also instances in which a job will qualify for a genuine occupational requirement on the grounds of gender. However, only in very few instances would this be permissible, for example, where the job is likely to involve physical contact with members of the opposite sex, where matters of decency or privacy are involved.

Partnerships with Parents/Carers/Families and the Wider Community

We will work with parents/carers to help all pupils to achieve their potential.

- All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the full life of the school.
- Setting up, as part of the schools' commitment to equality and diversity, a group made up of all stakeholders of the school community. This will be developed to support the school with matters related to its equalities duties.
- Members of the local community are encouraged to join in school activities.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- Our governing body will ensure that the school complies with statutory requirements in respect of this policy and action plan.

- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, and will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities, that they are given necessary training and support and report progress to the governing body.
- The Headteacher has day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of this policy.
- Our staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs and maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues.
- All members of the school community have a responsibility to treat each other with respect, to feel valued, and to speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour.
- We will take steps to ensure all visitors to the school are aware of our commitment to equality.

8. Commissioning and Procurement

St John's Catholic Primary School will ensure that we buy services from organisations that comply with equality legislation. This will be a significant factor in any tendering process.

9. The Measurement of Impact of the Policy

This policy will be evaluated and monitored for its impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from the different groups that make up our school. An action plan will be published to enable an impact assessment to be undertaken at the appropriate time within a given timescale.

10. Publicising the Policy and Plan

This policy will be published on the school website www.burscough.lancs.sch.uk. It is also available in paper copy upon request for any interested stakeholders.

11. Annual Review of Progress

St John's Catholic Primary School reports annually on our progress and performance in respect of this policy and we report annually on our progress to improve access for disabled pupils, including access to the curriculum, physical access and access to information. Taking this single equality approach, we will incorporate all requirements into one annual report

which meets the requirements of the legislation and this will formulate the basis for the annual action plan.

12. Equality Impact Analysis

Undertaking equality impact analysis (EIAs) is similar to undertaking health and safety risk assessments. It involves predicting and assessing what the implications of a policy, function or strategy will be on a wide range of people.

EIAs are a way in which we can analyse all of our work (this could be a policy, procedure, project, strategy or service) to ensure it meets the needs of all our service users and that no group (protected by the Equality Act 2010) is disadvantaged or cannot access our services.

Equality Action Plan

Actions (including staff training needs)	Key Personnel	Time Scale	Funding Source	Success Criteria/Intended Outcomes	Progress
To develop children's understanding of their own and other religions and beliefs.	ED and teachers	On-going. See Target 3 of School Improvement Plan	Capitation	Themed days weeks. Visits and visitors from other religious and cultural communities. Close partnership with the parish and the cluster of parishes in Burscough. Review of the planned curriculum especially history and PSHE	
To actively encourage FSM, EAL and children of a different ethnicity children to participate in activities of interest to them – use of pupil premium to fund these activities if needed.	ED	Half termly	PPG capitation	Use pupil progress meetings and gather dataset for attendance in extra-curricular events	
To monitor attendance for groups, particularly FSM and girls.	ED	Termly	N/A	Termly analysis	