



St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School

Single Equality Scheme 2020-23

Together with Christ everyone achieves more

Introduction

Equality: *does not mean treating everyone the same. It means treating people fairly, with respect, having regard for their rights and wishes. Sometimes this means giving people extra help so they have the same chances.*

This Single Equality Scheme addresses the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2010. This supersedes and brings together all previous statutory duties in relation to race, gender and disability and also addresses the duty to promote community cohesion, thus meeting the school's statutory duties in these areas.

The scheme also highlights how our school has worked with and listened to the staff, pupils, parents and carers to inform development of action plans and the need and commitment required to ensure the scheme is a success. This is underpinned by a commitment to promoting positive relationships and understanding between all groups within our school community.

This document sets out how pupils with the following protected characteristics (previously known as equality strands) will be protected in our school from harassment and discrimination:-

- disability
- gender
- race
- religion and belief
- sexual orientation
- gender reassignment
- maternity and pregnancy

This scheme extends however to cover all aspects of vulnerability, including those associated with socio-economic factors (e.g. pupils from low income families).

As well as delivering high quality services to our pupils, the school is also committed to being a good employer and as such this scheme outlines how we meet our varied duties in terms of recruitment and employment practices. We are also committed to being fully inclusive of all community users, including parents and carers. As such, this scheme therefore also sets out how we will work to overcome any discrimination related to the other protected characteristics:-

- age
- being married or in a civil partnership

This Scheme sets out:

- information about our school and the local area;
- our plans to meet our general and specific duties;
- how we will promote community cohesion within the school;
- how we have involved people in the development of this scheme;
- what consultation has taken place;
- what our plans are to gather and use information;
- how we intend to ensure our policies are fair;
- how we will report on our progress;
- who is responsible for making our scheme a reality; and,
- an action plan addressing our equality priorities

This scheme is reviewed every three years and is reported on annually.

Aims of the single equality scheme

- To articulate the school's commitment to equality which permeates all school policies and practices
- To ensure that everyone who belongs to, or comes into contact with, our school community is valued and respected
- To promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation
- To comply with statutory duties under equalities legislation in one document

Purpose of the Equality Scheme

This equality scheme is the school's response to the specific and general duties in the current equality legislation, which has been brought together under the Equality Act 2010. It is an attempt to capture how the school is systematically establishing and implementing good practice in equality and diversity across all areas of school life. This includes a response to all aspects of social identity and diversity.

This Equality Scheme sets out how the school will:

- eliminate discrimination;
- eliminate harassment or victimisation related to any aspect of social identity or diversity;
- promote equality of opportunity;
- promote positive attitudes to all aspects of social identity and diversity;
- encourage participation by disabled people and people representing different aspects of social identity in public life;
- take steps to take account of difference even where that involves treating some people more favourably than others;
- take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils.

Planning to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity

This scheme is underpinned by the core belief that all children and young people belong to their local community and share the same rights to membership of that community and a quality education. An action plan accompanies this Equality Scheme which identifies what

we will be doing over the coming year to make our school more accessible to the whole community, irrespective of background or need.

We will collect data related to the protected characteristics and analyse this data to determine our focus for our equality objectives. This data will be assessed across our core provisions as a school. This will include the following functions:

- admissions
- attendance
- attainment
- exclusions
- prejudice related incidents

Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

This school is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice related discrimination may fair well in the education system. We provide both our pupils and staff with awareness of the impact of prejudice in order to prevent any incidents. If incidents still occur we address them immediately and report them to the Local Authority using their guidance material. The Local Authority may provide some support.

The scheme encompasses our **anticipatory duties to plan ahead for the reasonable adjustments** (reasonable and proportionate steps to overcome barriers that may impede some pupils) we need to make to be best placed to help disabled pupils who come to our school.

This action plan replaces the school's Disability Accessibility Plan for the school (previously required under the planning duties in the Disability Discrimination Act) as it sets out how the school will increase access to education for disabled pupils, alongside other protected groups, in the three areas required:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

Monitor, review and reporting

The action plan is renewed annually and progress towards the equality objectives within it is reported on regularly to governors. Equality objectives have been identified through consultation with key stakeholders. It is available in different formats and in different languages on request to the school office.

Every three years, we will review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.

This Scheme will be reported on annually. Progress against the action plan will be evaluated and the impact of the action and activities assessed. This report will be made available as a separate document, available from our school office on request and on our website.

Publication

This action plan is understood and implemented by all staff and is available. We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Single Equality scheme and our published equality information and equality objectives by publishing them on our school website, copies will be available from the school reception area and it will be referenced in school newsletters and through other mediums as identified by the Governing Body.

Breaches

Breaches to this policy will be dealt with in the same way that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the head teacher and governing body.

School Aims Statements

The vision of St Mary and St Benedict Catholic School is to develop the children's spiritual, social, moral and cultural growth within a caring Catholic environment where life is centred around Christ's teachings. We endeavour to do this with the support of parents, staff, governors and the whole parish community.

We will provide a caring, supportive environment where each child's contribution is encouraged and accepted without judgment.

We will provide a broad, rich and stimulating curriculum which will encourage children to reach their full potential.

Equality Objectives 2020-23

Our objectives will detail how we ensure equality is applied to:

- eliminate discrimination
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

Our Objectives:

- To foster good relations and a sense of shared belonging in the school and our school community, specifically targeting our parents and carers and promoting pupil voice.
- To improve the attendance of pupils with complex medical needs.
- To improve outcomes for White British pupils so that their achievement is in line with the school average.

Indicators of progress towards meeting objectives

- Increased participation by parents/carers at school events and in questionnaires.
- Number of persistent absentees is reduced
- Gap between White British and other pupils is narrowed

What kind of a school are we?

School Vision and Value

The school's vision and values statement reflects the school's ambitions for all its pupils and have been developed with the whole community. It refers to the key requirements set out in the National Curriculum Inclusion Statement for developing an inclusive curriculum: setting suitable learning challenges; responding to pupils' diverse learning needs; overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

The school is well positioned for the equality and diversity agenda.

Training includes:

Meeting the medical needs of pupils; use of pejorative language; training on new intake for staff (SENCO updates) including medical, faith and belief, language needs; regular CPD to update on pupil needs and training opportunities; governor training on fair recruitment practices; equality training including representation, community cohesion training, work on anti bullying etc.

School provision

Examples of reasonable adjustments the school makes as a matter of course:

- We provide information for disabled pupils and parents/carers on request e.g. enlarged text;
- we have translation software for parents and carers and newly arrived families.
- we have strong links with MGSS, this service supports schools and newly arrived families.
- steps have been taken to create communication and learning friendly environments;
- the school operates a differentiated behaviour for success policy;
- our school has taken steps to provide training to address different areas of need (e.g. dyslexia, behaviour, autism, English as an additional language...)
- Individual Education Plans are created and reviewed at least twice annually for children who require a plan;
- school is accessible to all users;
- our school works closely with SEMHL (Learning and Behaviour Support Service), CCT (Complex Communication Team), CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), TAMHS (Targeted Mental Health Service,) Educational Psychology Service, School Nursing Service, Primary Mental Health, Referral Agencies such as Vibes and CRUSE to provide appropriate support and training to our children and staff; two members of staff are trained to deliver Rainbows bereavement counselling;
- our school employs our own Speech and Language Therapist;
- our school uses a data tracking toolkit to track the progress of vulnerable groups of pupils.

Outcomes for pupils

Outcomes for pupils are analysed against social identity issues, ie gender, ethnicity, disability, faith background, and aspects of vulnerability identified by the school. This is compared with the outcomes made for all pupils. This is recorded in the School Self Evaluation (SSE).

This process determines the impact of our provision on improving outcomes for identified pupils. In line with statutory requirements all new policies as well as existing policies and functions are evaluated for the impact they have, in consultation with identified pupils and parents/carers.

Other Outcomes

- The vast majority of pupils say they feel safe in school, Ofsted judged the extent to which pupils feel safe as good during our last inspection (e.g. Incidents of prejudiced based bullying recorded are very low)
- Pupils' behaviour was judged to be good during our last Ofsted (e.g. there are very low levels of fixed term exclusions)
- The extent to which pupils from particular groups adopt healthy lifestyles is good.
- The extent to which pupils from particular groups contribute to the school and the wider community is good(e.g. participation and achievement on extra-curricular/extended school activities, participation on school trips for particular groups of pupils)
- Attendance data for all pupils and for particular groups is monitored weekly and is judged to be good, with the school in the top 20% for attendance
- The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents/carers of particular groups of pupils is good (e.g. high attendance at parents' meetings, IEP meetings, parental/carers attendance at class masses and assemblies, responses to questionnaires etc.)

Our School Context

Ethnic Minority (2020)

2% - Any other Asian background
1% - White and Asian background
6% - Indian background
3% - Pakistani background
3% - Bangladeshi background
50% - Black African background
2% - Black Caribbean background
1% - White and Black African background
1% - White and Black Caribbean background
3% - Any other Black background
16% - White British background
1% - White Irish Background
7.0% - Any other White background
2.5% - Any other mixed background
1% - Chinese
2% - Any other ethnic group

Religion

50% - Catholic
2.0% - Sikh
8.0% - Muslim
17.0% - Christian
20.7% - no religion
2.3% - other religions

First Language

32% English

Languages Spoken English, Polish, Persian/Farsi, Dutch/Flemish, French, Panjabi, Ndebele, Russian, Tagalog/Filipino, Swahili, Albanian, Kikuyu, Gujarati, Lingala, Yoruba, Igbo, Tamil and Tigrinya

Free School Meals

48%

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities(SEND)

3% - EHCP
11% - SEN Support

Gender

47% - Boys
53% - Girls

The turnover of pupils is higher than average. The turnover of staff is low. The nature of the school and site regarding access is good and complies with regulations.

(We will not publish any information that can specifically identify any child)

Roles and Responsibilities in Implementing the Single Equality Scheme

The Head Teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about the Single Equality Scheme;
- ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively;
- manage any day to day issues arising from the policy whether for pupils or for the school as an employer;
- ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the scheme;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available;
- monitor the scheme and report to the Governing Body at least annually, on the effectiveness of the policy;
- ensure that the SLT are kept up to date with any development affecting the policy/action plan arising from the scheme;
- provide appropriate support and monitoring for all pupils and specific and targeted pupils to whom the scheme has direct relevance, with assistance from relevant agencies.

The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the school complies with all relevant equalities legislation;
- recommend all governors receive up to date training in all the equalities duties;
- designate a link governor with specific responsibility for the Single Equality Scheme;
- establish that the action plans arising from the scheme are part of the School Development Plan;
- support the Headteacher in implementing any actions necessary;
- inform and consult with parents about the scheme;
- evaluate and review the action every three years;
- evaluate the action plan yearly.

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- have general responsibility for supporting other staff in implementing this scheme;
- provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to the scheme;
- identify good quality resources and CPD opportunities to support the scheme;
- with the Headteacher, provide advice/support in dealing with any incidents/issues;
- assist in implementing reviews of this scheme as detailed in the School Development Plan.

People with specific responsibilities:

- The Head Teacher, Mrs MacDonald, is responsible for maintaining and sharing with all the staff those vulnerable pupils and how their needs will be met;
- The Head Teacher, Mrs MacDonald, is responsible for ensuring the specific needs of staff members are addressed;
- The Head Teacher, Mrs MacDonald and the SENCO, Mrs Sharman, are responsible for gathering and analysing the information on outcomes of vulnerable pupils and staff;

- The Head Teacher, Mrs MacDonald, is responsible for monitoring the response to reported incidents of a discriminatory nature.

Parents/Carers will:

- have access to the scheme;
- be encouraged to support the scheme;
- have the opportunity to attend any relevant meetings/awareness raising sessions related to the scheme;
- have the right to be informed of any incident related to this scheme which could directly affect their child.

School Staff will:

- accept that this is a whole school issue and support the Single Equality Scheme;
- be aware of the Single Equality Scheme and how it relates to them;
- make known any queries or training requirements
- know how to deal with incidents of concern, and how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping;
- know procedures for reporting incidents of racism, harassment or other forms of discrimination;
- know procedures for dealing with and reporting prejudice related incidents
- ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity;
- keep themselves up to date with relevant legislation and attend training and information events organised by the school or LA;
- ensure that pupils from all groups are included in all activities and have full access to the curriculum;
- promote equality and diversity through teaching and through relations with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.

Pupils will:

- be made aware of any relevant part of the scheme, appropriate to age and ability;
- be expected to act in accordance with any relevant part of the scheme
- experience a curriculum and environment which is respectful of diversity and difference and prepares them well for life in a diverse society;
- understand the importance of reporting prejudiced based bullying bullying/incidents;
- ensure the peer support programme within the school promotes understanding and supports pupils who are experiencing discrimination.

Visitors and contractors are responsible for complying with the school's Equality Scheme - non-compliance will be dealt with by the Head Teacher.

Involvement Processes

Policies are vital to identify and consolidate thinking regarding appropriate provision for pupils, however, they are often viewed as an end, when they should be seen as a process - always evolving in response to changes and evidence from impact

assessments. When developing this Equality Scheme, the school is clear that this is a process which must be informed by the involvement of all participants such as pupils, parents, school staff, governors and external agencies. This will ensure that the school gleans insights into the barriers faced by people from different social identity backgrounds and learns the best ways to overcome such barriers. This Scheme will be informed, therefore, by:

- the views and aspirations of pupils themselves from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of parents/carers of pupils from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of staff from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of members of the community and other agencies, including voluntary organisations, representing different social identity backgrounds;
- the priorities in the Coventry Children and Young People's Plan.

Mechanisms for involvement

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **pupils** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

For example:

- Exit interviews will take place at the end of Key Stage 2 with pupils;
- School council have a role in gathering views and suggestions of pupils;
- A group of pupils meet once per term with SLT to discuss their views on learning;
- SLT conduct pupil interviews;
- Individual interviews with pupils involved in incidents of a discriminatory nature;
- Individual interviews with pupils experiencing reasonable adjustment;

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **staff** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Exit and entry interviews with staff;
- Meetings with school union representatives;
- Regular SLT meetings with specific agenda items
- Regular CPD opportunities for staff with specific agenda items;
- Individual discussions with staff as a part of performance management.

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **parents/carers and the community** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Text inserted into Prospectus and website: “your support for your child’s education is crucial to their progress. Please tell us if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone; a discussion with a school colleague of the same gender.”
- Feedback through the Governing Body meetings;
- Meetings with parents and local groups representing a particular theme;
- Induction interviews with parents and carers;
- Termly parents’/carers’ consultations and class meetings;
- Induction for new parents/carers of EYFS children.

The school’s action plan will focus on developing the involvement of pupils, staff and parents from different social identity backgrounds over the three years of this Scheme. We will consider varying the times, methods and the venues for this involvement to ensure the best possible attendance and ensure views can be heard. This way the school will learn what works and the involvement of pupils, staff and parents will improve and deepen over time.

Action Planning

This scheme is supported by an action plan, the progress of which is monitored and evaluated by the Governing Body.

The action plan that identifies the equality objectives for the school arising from this scheme has:

- clear allocation of responsibility;
- clear allocation of resources, human and financial;
- clear timescales;
- expected outcomes and performance criteria;
- specified dates for review;

The effectiveness of this Scheme will be evaluated and reflected through:

- School Self-evaluation;
- discussions with the Coventry Improvement Advisor.

Signed
Headteacher

Signed
Chair of Governors

Date