

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School



Equality Policy

Appendix A to be reviewed July
2023

Policy to be reviewed Summer 2024

Respect, Faith, Friendship, Achievement

St. Matthew's C of E School Equality Policy (including Equality Information and Objectives)

Introduction

At St. Matthew's C of E Primary School we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 as both a provider of education and as an employer.

We believe that all pupils and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstances. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our school. We recognise that equality will only be achieved by the whole school community working together – our pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers.

This document outlines the principles which will guide our approach to working with our school community and enabling an open culture.

For staff and prospective staff, this policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Employment Equality Policy.

National and Legal Context

We recognise that we have duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the school community to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (applicable only to staff), disability, race, gender (including issues of transgender), maternity and pregnancy, religion and belief, sexual orientation and marital status (applicable only to staff).

We also recognise that we have a duty under the Education & Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion, i.e. developing good relations across different cultures and groups.

We also appreciate that these duties reflect the international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

School Context

St. Matthew's C of E Primary is situated in the village of Blackmoor. We collect equality information on an annual basis and this is in appendix I.

<http://www3.bants.gov.uk/Research/> *Equality and Diversity Factsheet* has further information on the demographics of our catchment.

We are a Church of England Voluntary aided school and welcome children from all faiths and beliefs. Our policies are based on Christian principles but our R.E. curriculum covers a range of religions. We encourage children to be respectful of all religions and celebrate our differences.

Principles

To fulfil our legal obligations, we are guided by a number of principles.

1. All pupils, families and staff are of equal value

We see all pupils, potential pupils, their parents and carers, and staff as 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 and non-religious affiliation or faith background
- Whatever their sexual orientation
- Whatever their marital status
- Whether they are currently pregnant or have recently given birth
- Whatever their age

2. We recognise and respect difference

We recognise that treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. We recognise that our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must take account of diversity and the kinds of barriers and disadvantage that staff, parents/carers or pupils may face in relation to their protected characteristics:

- Disability – we understand that reasonable adjustments may need to be made
- Gender (including transgender) – we recognise that girls and boys, men and women have different needs
- Religion and belief – we acknowledge that reasonable requests in relation to religious observance and practice may need to be made and complied with
- Ethnicity and race – we appreciate that all have different experiences as a result of our ethnic and racial backgrounds
- Age – we value the diversity in age of staff, parents and carers
- Sexual orientation – we respect that individuals have the right to determine their own sexual identity and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of their preference
- Marital status – we recognise that our staff, parents and carers may make their own personal choices in respect of personal relationships and that they should not experience disadvantage as a result of the relationships they have
- Pregnancy and maternity – we believe that our staff, parents and carers should not experience any unfair disadvantage as a result of pregnancy or having recently given birth

3. We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- positive attitudes and interaction between groups and communities different from each other
- an absence of harassment, victimisation and discrimination in relation to any protected characteristics

4. We observe good equalities practice in relation to staff

We ensure that our policies and practices for all staff and potential staff throughout the employment lifecycle, i.e. from recruitment through to the cessation of employment and beyond, are applied fairly and consistently across all groups with full respect for legal rights, taking into account aspects applicable to particular groups (e.g. duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled staff).

5. We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities avoid or minimise any possible negative impacts and we aim to reduce inequalities that exist between groups and communities different from each other.

6. We consult and involve to ensure views are heard

In our development of policies, we engage with groups and individuals, including pupils who are affected by a policy or activity to ensure that their views are taken into account. For policies and activities affecting pupils, we will take account of views expressed at school council; for parents, through parent governor representation and for staff, through staff governor representation. Where necessary, we will consult more widely with specific groups.

7. We aim to foster greater community cohesion

We intend that our policies, activities and curriculum offer foster greater social cohesion and provide for an equal opportunity to participate in public life irrespective of the protected characteristics of individuals and groups.

8. We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish information annually to show our compliance with the public sector equality duty, set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Our current equality information can be found in Appendix A to this policy statement.

This school has less than 150 staff, so the Governing Body are not required to publish information in relation to their staff, and therefore are only required to publish pupil-related data.

9. We set ourselves specific and measurable equality objectives

We develop and publish specific and measurable objectives every four years based on the evidence that we have gathered (principle 8) and the engagement we have been involved in (principle 7).

The objectives can be found in Appendix B to this policy statement and take into account both national, county and school level priorities.

We will set ourselves new objectives every four years, but keep them under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

Application of the principles within this policy statement:

The principles outlined in the policy statement will be applied and reflected in:

- The delivery of the school curriculum
- The teaching and learning within the school
- Our practice in relation to pupil progress, attainment and achievement

- Our teaching styles and strategies
- Our policies and practice in relation to admissions and attendance
- Our policies and practice in relation to staff
- Our care, guidance and support to pupils, their families and staff
- Our policies and practice in relation to pupil behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Our partnership working with parents and carers
- Our contact with the wider school community

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice including, but not limited to prejudice related to protected characteristics. We will ensure that prejudice-related incidents in relation to staff and pupils are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented and that arrangements are in place to deal with any concerns or unlawful action that arises.

The headteacher is responsible for implementation of this policy, ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and given appropriate training and support and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

All staff are expected to work in accordance with the principles outlined in this policy to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their practice
- deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons
- support pupils in their class who have additional needs

Date approved by the Governing Body: July 2021

Date for policy review: July 2024

* *NOTES:*

All schools must re-publish equality information contained in Appendix A annually.

All schools must review their equality objectives (contained in Appendix B) four years after publication, but are encouraged (in accordance with principle 9) to review progress towards these objectives annually having reference to relevant aspects of the annual equality information.,

However, this policy statement should not require such regular review and governors should schedule a cycle of 4 years, coinciding with the review of objectives. However, a shorter cycle may be deemed necessary due to the circumstances of the school or if the annual review of the equality information prompts a shorter cycle.

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sexual orientation, religion and belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, pupils, parents and others in the following ways:

- focus groups
- parent questionnaires
- involvement of the team captains
- staff survey
- contact with parents representing pupils with particular protected characteristics
- contact with the local community and disability organisations

Year 6 SATs data July 2022

| | Secure + | National Secure + | GDS | National GDS |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Combined | 63% | 60% | 7% | 8% |
| Reading | 77% | 73% | 20% | 29% |
| Writing | 83% | 72% | 13% | 13% |
| Maths | 80% | 73% | 20% | 24% |
| GPS | 67% | 72% | 23% | 30% |

June 2023 comparison data to EYFS, KS1 and previous years

Combined

| Year group | End of 2016-17 | End of 2017-18 | End of 2018-19 | March 2019-20 | End of 2020-21 | End of 2021-22 | Nov 2022 (M1) | Mar 2023 (M2) | Jun 2023 (M3) |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| R | | | | | | | 50%-93% (30) | 53% (30) | 70% (30) GLD |
| 1 | | | | | | 80% (30) | 70%-87% (30) | 73% (30) | 73% (30) |
| 2 | | | | | 77% (30) | 76% (29) | 77%-83% (30) | 67% (30) | 57% (30) |
| 3 | | | | - | 62% (29) | 52% (29) | 40%-73% (30) | 57% (30) | 70% (30) |
| 4 | | | 79% (28) | 53% (30) | 55% (29) | 66% (29) | 61%-86% (28) | 71% (28) | 75% (28) |
| 5 | | 72% (29) | 76% (29) | 46% (28) | 63% (30) | 70% (30) | 43%-83% (30) | 50% (30) | 67% (30) |
| 6 | 71.9% (32) | 69% (32) | 60% (30) | 70% (30) | 73% (30) | 77% (30) | 43%-83% (30) | 70% (30) | 63% (30) |

Staff data

Where schools have less than 150 staff, the Governing Body will not be required to publish information in relation to their staff, but the school maintains this information from the annual Schools workforce Census.

Other information

“The school has published various policies on the school’s internet site (insert link). These policies evidence the school’s commitment to the principles outlined in this policy and the public sector equality duty.

Date of publication of this appendix: July 2022

Date for review and re-publication: July 2023

NOTE: The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 require Governing Bodies to publish equality information on an annual basis

We recognise that the public sector equality duty has three aims, to:

- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct under the Act*
- *advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not*
- *foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not*

We have considered how well we currently achieve these aims with regard to the protected groups under the Equality Act (race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, marital status, sexual orientation, religion and belief and sexual orientation).

We have also involved staff, pupils, parents and others in the following ways:

- *parent questionnaires*
- *involvement of the school captains and ambassadors*
- *staff survey*
- *contact with parents representing pupils with particular protected characteristics*
- *contact with the local community*
- *involvement from EMTAS to support EAL families*

Having referred to and analysed our equality information, we have set ourselves the following objective(s):

Objective 1: To improve the outcomes for all groups of children for reading, writing and maths.

These subject areas and the combined scores will continue to be monitored each term. **Our data this year is in line with national averages for all children. We have improved data for some groups and will continue to monitor this data closely to continue improvement; specifically for greater depth.**

Objective 2:

Subject leaders to monitor and evaluate planning and resources to ensure that these represent the diversity of the world.

We have invested in books borrowed from RADE and EMTAS. Subject leads are looking at resources that need updating to reflect our diverse world.

Objective 3:

To be involved in an improvement project with EMTAS(Ethnic Minority and Traveller Service) to ensure that our 'English as a second language' pupils gain as much access to support as possible and their achievements show improved progress in line with other groups. To monitor progress over four years.

We have just submitted our work for the bronze 'Excellence Award'. We hope to achieve silver next year.

Objective 4:

The new RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) policy to be monitored by governors to ensure that we are using an inclusive approach in conjunction with our 'School Christian values'.

Governors have been involved in monitoring 'Heart Smart' which reflects our RSHE policy. They will continue to monitor to ensure that our policy remains robust.

NB The legislation only requires one objective to be set and this should be pupil related. The number of objectives set should be proportionate to the size and functions of the school.

Only where schools have a large staff group is it likely to be necessary for the school to consider setting a staff or employment related objective. Schools should use the action plan on page 20 of the Public Sector Equality Duty Workbook to develop a strategy to achieve these objectives and this plan should be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.

Date of publication: July 2023

Date for review and re-publication: July 2024

NOTE: The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 require Governing Bodies to publish equality objectives at intervals of no more than four years but schools should publish detail on progress towards these objectives on an annual basis and publish this detail on the school's internet site.