



# **SINGLE EQUALITIES POLICY**

## **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHORLEY**

### **OCTOBER 2020**

### **REVIEW DATE: OCTOBER 2022**

#### **Background**

The requirements of the Equality Act have been introduced incrementally since October 2010. In April 2011 the general public sector duty came into force and in April 2012 schools had the specific duty to publish information and the specific duty to publish objectives.

The primary purpose of the legislation is to bring together existing equalities legislation. Primarily these are the Equal Pay Act of 1970, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act of 1976, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and three major statutory instruments of recent years protecting discrimination in employment on grounds of religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.

It also builds on the 2006 Equality Act which instigated the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The 2010 Act imposes equality duties in respect of each of the equality strands (now called protected characteristics).

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Public authorities are also required to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status. The Equality Act has a single equality duty of positively combating inequality. It brings

all existing provisions broadly into line with one another and extends beyond race, gender and disability to now include the characteristics of age, sexual orientation and

religion or belief. The Act also identifies other characteristics such as marital status, pregnancy, having caring responsibilities or maternity. The definition of equality is therefore wider than it has been before. Additionally, requirements that in the past have been seen as good practice are now legally enforceable. For example, the law

now requires that as part of their procurement processes, public bodies should prefer companies that it contracts with to have a positive record on equality matters. There are also implications for the community cohesion agenda. The existing duty to promote good race relations has been replaced with a generic one to promote good relations. The Equality Act will require all public authorities to take the aspects of interaction, empowerment, personal security and attitudes to others into account. Community cohesion is in sympathy with most, if not all, of the requirements in the legislation and thus there should not be a radical departure in terms of delivery. As part of Lancashire's continuing commitment to fostering community cohesion, we will work to narrow gaps in outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. This is in line with Lancashire County Council's priorities on closing the gaps (see 'Narrowing the Gaps: 2010 – 2013, Fairness for All' – Lancashire County Council).

## Things to consider

The schools' provision of the act prohibits schools from discriminating against, harassing or victimising:

- Prospective pupils
- Pupils at school
- In some limited circumstances, former pupils

Note: Age and being married or in a civil partnership are not protected characteristics for the schools' provision.

Schools also have obligations under the Equality Act as employers, bodies which carry out public functions and service providers. In this instance all the protected characteristics need to be taken into account. All schools in Lancashire, irrespective of how they are funded or managed, have obligations under the Equality Act 2010. It is the responsible body for a school that is liable for any breaches of the Equality Act.

In the past there have been exceptions to the discrimination provisions for schools and these are all replicated in the new act – such as the content of the curriculum, collective worship and admissions to single sex schools and schools of a religious character.

Schools are obliged to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This duty establishes, in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, that public authorities are required to pay 'due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment and victimisation that are prohibited by the Equality Act; and
- Advance equality of opportunity; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

These are known as the three aims or arms of the '**general equality duty.**'  
Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favourably than others.

The PSED is supported by specific duties.

The **specific duties** regulations require public bodies to:

- Publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and
- Prepare and publish equality objectives.

The purpose of the specific duties is to support compliance with the general duty to have 'due regard'.

Schools have until 6 April 2012 to publish their initial information and first set of objectives. They will need to update the published information at least annually and to publish objectives at least once every four years. Appendix one contains advice on how to set objectives.

This document provides guidance on how schools may develop a Single Equalities policy This is a way for schools to demonstrate that they are complying with the PSED.

It is a starting point and needs to be tailored to meet the needs of your school and its community. It is important to stress that schools shouldn't simply *adopt* a policy, but rather should ensure true ownership of a document that will be unique to each school.

The Single Equalities policy could replace/cover the following:

- Race Equality Policy and Action Plan

- Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan
- Gender Equality Scheme and Action Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy including:
  - Sexual orientation
  - Age
  - Religion or belief
- A strategy for promoting community relations

## Single Equalities Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is fully committed to tackling all form of discrimination.

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of St Joseph's school to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school this means not simply treating everybody 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 Joseph's, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

We recognise that all people are made in the image and likeness of God and should be treated with love and respect.

### Details about the school

- **Currently how many boys and girls are on the school roll?**

We have 202 children on roll (September 2020)

- **What is the ethnic make-up of the pupils registered at the school?**

87% of our children are white British

- **Which minority ethnic groups are represented in the school staff and governing body?**

The majority of our school staff and governors are white British

- **The linguistic profile of the school**

We have a small number of children for whom English is an additional language.

- **How many pupils with a known disability does the school have on roll?**

There are a small number of children with identified disabilities for whom there are EHCP in place to enable them to fully access all aspects of school life.

- **Does the school know the number of staff and governors who have a disability?**

No

- **Is the school physically accessible? What other adjustments are available?**

The school has wheel chair access to all parts of the school with lift access to the Junior area of the building.

- **Are there particular demographic trends in the local area?**

The majority of the local population are white British. We have a small number of Polish heritage families and Syrian families.

- **Are there any Children in Care**

Our school has/and has had in the past, a higher than average proportion of children in care. We have excellent relationship with our Foster parents, many of whom choose our school especially for it's inclusive nature and the way CLA have thrived here.

- At St Joseph's school, the leadership of the school community 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, eg 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 planning of assemblies, classroom based and externally based activities

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 the school Governing body.

St Joseph's 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/students:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Attainment
- Progress
- Term of birth
- FMS6
- PPG
- Attendance
- We have a robust child protection policy to identify children at risk

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, disability, sexism, homophobia 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 Joseph's 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.

We fully comply with the Safer Recruitment Policy.

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

For example, applicants for employment, staff profile, governing body profile, attendance at training events, disciplinary and grievance cases, staff appraisal/performance management, exit interviews.

Any information relating to an individual member of staff is confidential and treated as such under the Data Protection Act.

We have identified the following issues from the analysis of the data: Due regard is given to the promotion of equality in the School Improvement Plan. The person responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan is Mrs A Douglas

Their 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

## **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 their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age 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 should place 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 programmes of work
- The school must provide 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 will be given to the physical learning environment – both internal and external, including displays and signage



## **Curriculum**

At St Joseph's school, we aim to ensure that:

- Planning reflects our commitment to equality in all subject areas and cross curricular themes promoting positive attitudes to equality 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 have access to qualifications which recognise attainment and achievement and promote progression

## **Resources and Materials**

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

- 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
- 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 Joseph's 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 (e.g. sports helpers, coach drivers) by providing them with written guidelines drawn from this policy.

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

## **Provision for Bi-lingual Pupils**

We undertake at St Joseph's school to make appropriate provision for all EAL/ bilingual 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

Bilingual pupils are encouraged to use their first language effectively for learning.

## **Personal Development and Pastoral Guidance**

- Staff take account of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination and the 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 has been/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
- Exploring the possibility of the school having a role to play in supporting new and settled communities
- 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 adhere to our commitment to equality

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

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.

### **Specific duties - Information and objectives**

There are specific duties which schools have to undertake in relation to the Equality Act 2010:

- a) to publish information which shows they have due regard for equalities, as defined by the Act;
- b) to publish at least one equality objective.

The information and objectives have to be published by 6 April 2012 at the latest. In later years the information has to be updated annually and this annual updating is expected to include an indication of progress on achieving the objectives. Objectives have to be prepared and published every four years.

### **Two guiding principles:**

An important principle underlying how schools respond to the specific duties is **proportionality**. This means that, for example, more information may be expected from a large secondary school than from a small primary, and more than one equality objective may be expected.

A second important principle is **flexibility**. This means that each individual school is permitted, and indeed expected, to interpret the legislation in ways which are appropriate to its own context, neighbourhood, history and circumstances.