

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Equality Information and Objectives Statement



“Doing our best for God”

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1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination
- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) guidance: [The Equality Act 2010 and schools](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

The senior leadership team will:

- Support the headteacher in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Support the headteacher in identifying any staff training needs, and deliver training as necessary

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

4. Eliminating discrimination

The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with nondiscrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Staff and governors are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training every September.

5. Advancing equality of opportunity

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:
 - Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
 - Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information
 - Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups
 - Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

6. Fostering good relations

The school aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures

- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting visitors to speak at assemblies (e.g. Paralympians, leaders of local faith groups) and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

The school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the school considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays
- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities
- Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls

The school keeps a written record (known as an Equality Impact Assessment) to show we have actively considered our equality duties and asked ourselves relevant questions. This is recorded at the same time as the risk assessment when planning school trips and activities. The record is completed by the member of staff organising the activity and is stored electronically with the completed risk assessment.

8. Equality objectives

Diversity and representation

At St. Bernadette's we develop our curriculum to be as representative of the world and our community as possible. We aim to celebrate diversity and promote acceptance and respect. We want a curriculum that allows our children to regularly learn about, and be inspired by, individuals of all abilities from all backgrounds, cultures, religions and ethnicities. We aim that the celebration of differences is embedded in our lessons and discussed frequently at every opportunity possible throughout the year.

Significant Individuals

We want to focus on how the persistence and determination of significant individuals, from all backgrounds, have positively influenced the world in which we live and celebrate their achievements and contributions. We have considered how we can represent a variety of people in all of our subjects.

Challenging Stereotypes

We want to make sure that we challenge assumptions to broaden our children's thinking. At St. Bernadette's, we use carefully chosen images, stories and activities throughout the curriculum to allow the chance to dispel stereotypes. Our careers education also enables us to challenge stereotypes within the world of work.

Diverse Visuals

We ensure that the visuals we choose are inclusive and diverse throughout the curriculum. Varied visuals also give our children opportunities to raise and discuss ideas that are important to them. This allows our children to explore the world and ask questions in a safe space.

Diverse Texts

It is really important that children get to 'see themselves' in books, both fiction and non-fiction. Not only should they see themselves but they should also be given the opportunity to see a wide range of people in all sorts of roles including that of the main characters and authors. We have committed to buying new books that continue to diversify our library, book corners and chosen teaching texts to be more inclusive and challenge stereotypes.

Inclusion

At St. Bernadette's, we believe passionately that every child, of every ability, should have equal opportunities to develop and achieve, and that every child should believe that they can do and be anything they wish. Through high quality first teaching, careful identification and targeted support, we strive to meet the needs of all children in an inclusive environment. Teaching, training, expert external support, apt resourcing and highly positive relationships between staff and children all help our children to make progress, particularly for those who may find the curriculum challenging. Additionally, at St. Bernadette's, we value parental partnerships and have an open-door policy with staff as well as an approachable, experienced SENDCo and so we are able to act quickly as needs arise or are made known. Through open and honest dialogue and apt support, we are able to offer our children and families the tools that they need to make progress throughout their educational journey with us and beyond. Prejudice is not tolerated and we are continuously working towards a more accepting and respectful environment for our school community.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher will update the equality information we publish, [described in sections 4-7 above], at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by the governing board at least every 2 years.

This document will be approved by the governing board.

10. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Health and Safety Policy
- Pupil Premium Policy
- Risk assessment
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy

Signed: *Jill Greenhalgh* (Assistant Headteacher)

Date: March 2023

Review Date: September 2025