



**St Edward's Catholic First School**  
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## **Equality Policy**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In St Edward's First School we believe that everyone is of equal value. Each person is a unique individual with their own special qualities and will be encouraged to develop respect for themselves

and everyone with whom they come into contact.

This policy sets out the school's approach to promoting equality, as defined within the Equality Act

(2010). It covers sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and the school's statutory

duty to produce a Single Equality Scheme. This Equality Policy statement sets out:

- aims and values
- the school's overall approach to promoting equality, diversity and tackling discrimination
- specific reference to sex, race, disability, gender, age, religion / belief<sup>1</sup> and sexual orientation
- roles and responsibilities
- monitoring, reviewing and assessing impact

### **OUR APPROACH TO PROMOTING EQUALITY**

The overall objective of the school's Equality Policy is to provide a framework for the school to

pursue its equality duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment; to promote equality

of opportunity; and to promote good relations and positive attitudes between people of diverse backgrounds in all its activities.

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<sup>1</sup> As a voluntary aided school with a religious character, the governing body may give preference to any candidate or admissions application whose religious opinions and worship are in accordance with the tenets of the religious denomination of the school.'

Through the Equality Policy, the school seeks to ensure that no pupils, staff, parents, guardians or

carers or any other person through their contact with the school, receives less favourable treatment

on any grounds which cannot be shown to be justified. This covers characteristics identified within

the Equality Act (2010) i.e. sex, race, disability, religion<sup>2</sup> or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment. In addition, this may also include characteristics such as ethnic or national origin,

language, marital or civil partnership status, age, responsibility for children or other dependants,

trade union or political activities, social class, where the person lives or spent convictions.

The principles of this policy apply to all members of the extended school community: pupils, staff,

Governors, parents and community members.

### **A COHESIVE COMMUNITY**

St Edward's First School recognises the importance of working in partnership with our local and

wider community.

In order to achieve a cohesive community, we should:

- promote understanding and engagement between communities
- encourage all children and families to feel part of the wider community
- know the needs and hopes of all our communities
- tackle discrimination
- increase life opportunities for all
- ensure the curriculum explores and addresses issues of diversity

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

All who work in the school have a responsibility for promoting equality and inclusion and avoiding

unfair discrimination.

Our governors are responsible for:

- ensuring that the school complies with all current equality legislation
- ensuring that this policy and its procedures are followed

The Headteacher is responsible for:

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<sup>2</sup> As above

- ensuring that the policy is available and that the governors, staff, pupils and their parents/carers know about it
- ensuring that procedures are followed
- ensuring that all staff know their responsibilities and receive training if necessary to support and carry out their duty
- taking appropriate action in cases of harassment and discrimination

All our staff are responsible for:

- modelling good practice, dealing with incidents and being able to recognise and tackle bias and stereotyping
- promoting equality and avoiding discrimination against anyone
- keeping up to date with the law on discrimination and taking training and learning opportunities if appropriate

Pupils are responsible for:

- keeping equality and diversity issues as a matter of discussion through the school, giving their input where appropriate on policy development such as: the anti-bullying policy, development of school/class rules which challenge any discriminatory behaviour
- eliminating all behaviour which is biased and discriminatory, with the guidance and support of the school's staff.

Parents/Carers and visitors / contractors are responsible for:

- following our equality policy

Responsibility for overseeing equality practices in the school lies with the Headteacher, Leadership Team and the Governing Body.

These responsibilities include:

- coordinating and monitoring work on equality issues
- dealing with and monitoring reports of harassment (including racist and homophobic incidents)
- monitoring the progress and attainment of potentially vulnerable groups of pupils (e.g. children in care, disabled and traveller pupils etc).
- monitoring exclusions

### **MONITORING, REVIEWING, ASSESSING IMPACT**

The policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is effective in eliminating discrimination, promoting access and participation, equality and good relations between different

groups, and that it does not disadvantage any particular sections of our community.

Any pattern of inequality found will be used to inform future planning and decision making

*Where relevant this Policy also applies to Wraparound Care*

<b>Reviewed:</b>	Head Teacher	October 2016
<b>Approved:</b>	Curriculum Committee	November 2016
<b>Ratified:</b>	Governing Board	November 2016
<b>Review frequency</b>	4 Years	