

Equality information and objectives policy



WHITFIELD ST JAMES'
CE (VC) Primary School

Approved by:	Full governing body
Date:	16.07.24
Frequency of review:	Annually
Next review by:	July 2025

At Whitfield St James' CE (VC) Primary School, we are committed to our 'Working together to achieve our best' 'to reach our God-given potential' school motto. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity - celebrating the ways in which we are each different while highlighting the many ways in which we are all the same.

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) 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

Our school aims to promote respect for difference and diversity in accordance with our values

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](#).

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
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training

The headteacher will:

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

Eliminating discrimination

The school is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination 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 as part of our Safeguarding refresher termly. If the headteacher feels a member of staff needs more intense training, that will be given either by the headteacher or a trusted external provider.

The school has a designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues (Leo Ford). They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

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 that are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of school societies)

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, the school will:

- Analyse the data referenced above to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying)
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

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,

citizenship 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/diverse families

- 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 leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, 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 parliament 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

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

Objectives

1. To ensure that all learners have equal access to a rich, broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
2. To ensure that teaching and learning promotes equality, celebrates diversity and promotes community cohesion.
3. To ensure that no-one is unfairly or illegally disadvantaged as a consequence of their gender, colour, race, age, ethnic or national origin, disability or religious beliefs.
4. To ensure that children learn about protected characteristics and that no one is unfairly or illegally disadvantaged because of their protected characteristic.
5. To recognise, celebrate diversity within our community whilst promoting community cohesion.
6. To acknowledge the richness and diversity of British society and to help prepare children for their part in that society.
7. To ensure that those with management responsibility and individual staff accept responsibility for planning, organisation and delivery of appropriate educational material to ensure that this policy for equal opportunity is woven into all we do.

8. To ensure that learners and parents are fully involved in the provision made by the school.
9. To ensure that within the school budget appropriate funding is provided to underpin this policy.

Strategies

1. Monitoring, evaluation and review carried out by the Leadership Team will ensure that procedures and practices within the school reflect the objectives of this policy.
2. Parents will be involved and consulted about the provision being offered by the school.
3. Teachers will ensure that their planning, teaching and learning takes account of this policy and other policies and ensures that equity underpins all their work.
4. The diversity within our school and the wider community will be viewed positively by all and this diversity will be recognised as a rich resource for teaching, learning and the curriculum.
5. INSET opportunities will be provided for staff, to raise awareness and provide practical examples of suitable curricular materials.
6. Active contributions will be sought of parents and others to enrich teaching, learning and the curriculum.
7. The positive achievements of all pupils will be celebrated and recognised.
8. Items will be raised at governing body meetings where the objectives have not been met.

Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher will update the equality information we publish, at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by the governing board every 4 years, unless any changes have been made.