



St Stephen's C.E. Primary School Single Equalities Policy and Action Plan Autumn 2023

1 Statement of Principles

This statement demonstrates the school's commitment to the Single Equalities Policy from the school workforce, the governing body and where appropriate, the school council.

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff, pupils and governors of St. Stephen's C.E 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 Stephen'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.

These principles are part of our vision statement and where our aim is to, "respect each other, to display tolerance and to value diversity".

Ofsted (2014) recognised the good relationships between pupils and staff and this was further acknowledged in the Siams inspection of 2015. The school's Mission Statement to "Aspire to Greatness" means we want all members of St. Stephen's community to be successful through the following key values, to:

Achieve highly

Succeed with increasing self-belief

Persevere at all times

Include everyone and celebrate difference

Respect themselves, all others and property

Enjoy learning and feel safe in and around school

An inclusive school, where everyone is valued regardless of difference is, we believe, the context within which all school members can aspire to greatness.

2 School in Context

The characteristics of the school are as follows:

- The proportion of pupils learning English as an additional language (38%) and the proportion of of pupils from minority ethnic groups (54%) is above national
- The following ethnic minority groups are represented in school: Eastern European, Mixed white Black Caribbean, mixed white Asian, Asian Indian, Asian Bangladeshi and Black African.
- The school has 5 pupils with EHC plans and who are known to have a learning disability.
- There is a member of staff with a recognised disability
- The school is relatively accessible to adults and pupils with a physical disability, although the Junior block has a 2nd floor which cannot currently be accessed by wheelchair users. There is an action plan in place to continue to improve accessibility for school users with a physical or learning disability. This is found in the SEND policy.
- There are no children in public care.

The school serves a community which is culturally diverse. Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian faiths are represented in the school. The teaching and support staff are predominantly female. White British boys are the lowest performing group in school.

3 Ethos and Atmosphere

- At St Stephen's C.E. school, the leadership of the school community 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, e.g, 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, enrichment days, classroom based and externally based activities

4. Policy Development

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 parents, governors, staff and the school council.

5. Monitoring and Review

St Stephen'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:

attainment data, attendance data, exclusions, involvement with extended learning opportunities and complaints of bullying or harassment. This analysis forms part of the school's self evaluation.

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
- Discriminatory behaviours relating to race, gender, disability, faith and culture as part of the anti-bullying procedures in school
- Parental views of the school
- 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 Stephen's C.E. 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.

The Employment Duty within the legislation states all schools should collect information on staff in post, and applicants for employment, training and promotion. This is deemed to be best practice in order to identify potentially discriminatory practice and St. Stephen's carries out this practice.

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

The vast majority of staff are female but there are various faiths and cultures represented amongst support staff. The governing body represents the faith and ethnic diversity within the area. There are no staff or governors with a recognised disability.

We have identified the following issues from the analysis of the data and Pupil Attitude Questionnaires:

"White British" and "White other" boys perform less well than other groups of pupils represented in school.

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 the headteacher.

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.

6. Developing Best Practice

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 through carefully assessed and administered programmes of work

- The school provides 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
- Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated and this is documented further in the behaviour policy. Discriminatory incidents are recorded and reported to parents.

Curriculum

At St. Stephen's C.E. 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. Stephen'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 Stephen's 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 by providing the guidance to ensure equality of opportunity.

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. Stephen's to make appropriate provision for all EAL/bi-lingual 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

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 and to appoint staff which represents the diversity of modern Britain
- 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
- 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. A Church of England 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 permitted, 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

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- 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

8. Commissioning and Procurement

St Stephen'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.

9. The Measurement of Impact of the Policy

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.

10. Publicising the Policy and Plan

This policy is available on the school website and reference to equality is made throughout the teaching and learning opportunities provided here and particularly promoted within the PSHE scheme of work.

11. Annual Review of Progress

We are legally required to report annually on progress and performance in respect of the policy covering ethnicity, disability and gender and to report annually on the progress to improve access for disabled pupils, including access to the curriculum, physical access and access to information. Taking this single equality approach, we will incorporate all requirements into one annual report which meets the requirements of the new legislation and which will formulate the basis for the annual action plan. The school currently reports on the progress of all pupil groups through the Lancashire Rose report and reviews the accessibility plan through the revision of the SEND policy.

12. Equality Impact Analysis

Undertaking equality impact analysis (EIAs) is similar to undertaking health and safety risk assessments. It involves predicting and assessing what the implications of a policy, function or strategy will be on a wide range of people.

EIAs are a way in which we can analyse all of our work (this could be a policy, procedure, project, strategy or service) to ensure it meets the needs of all our service users and that no group (in relation to ethnicity, disability, gender, age, religion and belief, and sexual orientation) is disadvantaged or cannot access our services.

School Objectives:

School Equality Objectives: 2022 - 2025

Narrowing the gaps

- To narrow the gaps in English at KS1 and KS2 between girls and boys
- To raise aspirations for all pupil groups but particularly the disadvantaged and SEND through an ambitious curriculum

Fostering good relations

- To enrich curriculum resources and reading material so that teaching material reveals greater diversity (particularly purchasing resources to raise the profile of Black African and Asian groups, gender and disability and the representation of different types of families.
- To continue to plan worship themes around inclusion so that all minority ethnic groups feel represented and included.
- Each subject leader to update resources so that diversity is represented as the norm and there is greater representation of minority groups

Note: The information in Appendix 1 is adapted from INSTED - Equalities in Education Resource Folder 2009-11

<http://www.insted.co.uk/equalities.html>

Appendix 2 – for information

The 9 Protected Characteristics

Race

The term race includes colour, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin and citizenship as well as race.

Reporting discriminatory incidents in schools

Schools in Lancashire are required to have in place a procedure for recording incidents. St Stephen's analyses incidences of discriminatory language/behaviour and these are reported to the governing body on a termly basis.

Disability

What is a disability?

- Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. That effect must be:
 - substantial (more than minor or trivial)
 - adverse
 - long-term (it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year or for the rest of the life of the person affected).

There is no need for a person to have a specific, medically-diagnosed cause for their impairment – what matters is the effect of the impairment, not the cause.

Examples include hearing or sight impairments, a significant mobility difficulty, mental health conditions or learning difficulties. There are many other types of condition, illness or injury that can result in a person being *disabled* (eg diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart conditions, facial disfigurement).

GENDER

The term gender includes boys, girls, men and women, and transgender/transsexual people. Sexual orientation is a distinct protected characteristic. (The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender).

What is the difference between sex and gender?

- Sex refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.
- Gender is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women. While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be.

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexism is any prejudice and discrimination against individuals and groups who are lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) or are perceived to be so. It is based on the assumption that everyone is or should be heterosexual. Expressions of dislike, contempt or fear based on heterosexism are usually known as **homophobia**, although **lesophobia** and **biphobia** are also coming into use.

Whether through institutional practice or personal behaviour, the prevalence of heterosexism is likely to mean that LGB people feel excluded and unsafe. This effect can be mitigated by an actively welcoming and supportive environment.

Sexual orientation is defined as an individual's sexual orientation towards people of the same sex as her or him (gay or lesbian), people of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or people of both sexes (bisexual).

Transgenderism and gender re-assignment

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Gender re-assignment is the process a transgender person goes through to change sex.

Age

A person belonging to a particular age (for example 32 year olds) or range of ages (for example 18 to 30 year olds)

Pregnancy and maternity

Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding

Marriage and Civil partnership

Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple.

Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act)

Religion and belief

Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (such as Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Adopted by the Governing Body: