

In God's love we believe and achieve



St. Michael's

Catholic Primary School

Equality Policy

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Overview

It is the policy of this school to promote equity and diversity in all areas of our life and work. We will not tolerate discrimination on unlawful or unfair grounds. All will be treated equally and given equal access to the curriculum and life of the school. All will have equal opportunity to benefit from all that we offer. Our intention is to develop an ethos in which all will thrive. Diversity and differences will be valued and respected by all and they will contribute to the richness of our school life and learning.

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 recognise and celebrate diversity within our community whilst promoting community cohesion.
5. 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 equality and diversity is woven into all we do.
6. To ensure that learners and parents are fully involved in the provision made by the school.
7. 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 ensures that equality 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. The school equality tree will be displayed in communal areas and in every classroom (see Appendix 1).

Principles

In fulfilling the legal obligations cited above, we are guided by the following principles:

Principle 1: All learners are of equal value.

We see all learners and potential learners and their parents and carers as of equal value:

- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status
- Whatever their gender and gender identity
- Whatever their religious or non-religious affiliation or faith background
- Whatever their sexual identity.

Principle 2: We recognise and respect difference.

Treating people equally (Principle 1 above) does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people may face, in relation to:

- Disability, so that reasonable adjustments are made
- Ethnicity, so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised
- Gender, so that all gender needs and experiences are met
- Religion, belief or faith background
- Sexual identity.

Principle 3: We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- Positive attitudes towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people.
- Positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents.
- Mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, and women

and men, and an absence of sexual and homophobic harassment.

Principle 4: We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development

- We ensure that policies and procedures should benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development:
- Whether or not they are disabled
- Whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status
- Whatever their gender and sexual identity, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.

Principle 5: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between:

- Disabled and non-disabled people
- People of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- All genders.

Principle 6: We consult and involve widely

We engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. We consult and involve:

- Disabled people as well as non-disabled
- People from a range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- All genders.
- People of all sexual orientation

Principle 7: Society as a whole should benefit

We intend that our policies and activities should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in public life of:

- Disabled people as well as non-disabled
- People of a wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- All genders
- People of all sexual orientation.

Principle 8: Objectives

We formulate and publish specific and measurable objectives, based on the evidence we have collected and published and the engagement in which we have been involved.

The objectives which we identify take into account national and local priorities and issues, as appropriate.

We keep our equality objectives under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with

- legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.
- A member of the governing body has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.
- The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.
- A senior member of staff has day-to-day responsibility for coordinating implementation of the policy.

All staff are expected to:

- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- Deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- Plan and deliver curriculum and lessons that reflect the school's principles
- Support pupils in their class for whom English is an additional language
- Keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

Outcomes

This policy will play an important part in the educational development of individual pupils. It will ensure that all pupils are treated as favourably as others and that the school will make all the reasonable adjustments necessary to promote equity and community cohesion. Learners from all backgrounds will be treated as equal and valued members of the school community.

The Equality Policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Reviewed by Governing Body and signed by Mike Volynchok, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

Signed copy available in school office.

Appendix 1

Equality Tree - We are **all** equal

