



Equality and Diversity Policy

Reviewed and Approved by Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare Committee

On: 22 March 2018

Reviewed and Ratified at the St Edward's Full Governing Body

On: 26 April 2018

Next review date: Autumn 2020

Member of SLT responsible: Mr C Farrow

Introduction and founding principles

As a joint Roman Catholic and Church of England foundation, St Edward's School is a community built upon diversity. Informed by Gospel values, guided by the School Mission Statement and supported by British values and legislation (specifically the 2010 Equality Act), we are committed to the promotion of equality and respect for diversity.

Through a broad, balanced, inclusive and stretching curriculum, all students are challenged to achieve their full potential, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality, disability or circumstance.

Key aims in relation to Equality and Diversity

As a school we seek to:

- Create a learning environment in which everyone feels valued and welcome;
- Prepare students for life in a diverse and rapidly changing society;
- Encourage all members of the community to value and celebrate diversity;
- Advance equality of opportunity;
- Foster good relationships through tackling prejudice and promoting understanding;
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

To achieve this we:

- Provide a curriculum that teaches students, both explicitly and implicitly, the value of equality and diversity;
- Model inclusivity, respect for equality and celebrate diversity;
- Have high expectations and challenge all students to achieve their best, regardless of their background;
- Take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils
- Making reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of those with disabilities;
- Collect and analyse data in order to ensure all groups are progressing well;
- Set equality objectives and publish equality information regularly;
- Seek opportunities to engage with families, schools, churches and other local community groups to develop a wider understanding of equality and diversity issues in the local area and nationally.

Leadership, management and governance

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Promote equality and model good relationships;
- Engage in and promote the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all students, explicitly through the curriculum and implicitly through modelling the promotion of equality of opportunity and diversity;
- Monitor progress and identify any groups or students who are at risk of underperformance;
- Contribute to an inclusive curriculum and positive ethos which reflects our diverse society;
- Be vigilant for any type of harassment and bullying;
- Deal effectively with all incidents of prejudice, discrimination, bullying or victimisation;
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and in the school's culture;
- Keep up to date with equality legislation, development and issues by attending relevant training and accessing information from appropriate sources.

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to:

- Implement the policy and its strategies and procedures;
- Set equality objectives and report on these to governors annually;
- Ensure that all staff receive appropriate and relevant continuous professional development;
- Challenge and take appropriate action in any cases of discriminatory practice;
- Respond to any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with LA guidance;

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to:

- Ensure that the School complies with equality legislation;
- Ensure that the School's policy and its procedures and strategies are carried out and evaluated;
- Evaluate the equality objectives at least annually;
- Follow the agreed admissions policy, which is fair and equitable in its treatment of all groups;
- Monitor attendance of staff and students and take appropriate action where necessary;
- Have equal opportunities in staff recruitment and professional development and membership of the Governing Body;
- Provide information in appropriate, accessible formats;
- Be involved in dealing with serious breaches of the policy;
- Be pro-active in recruiting high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the Governing Body and LA as required.

Policy Planning and Review

This policy has been written in the light of the 2010 Equality Act and in the understanding that this consolidated and extended previous legislation.

The policy will be reviewed annually or earlier should changes to legislation or other factors require it.