

APPROVED



st. Wilfrid's

Catholic High School and Sixth Form College, a Voluntary Academy



Single Equality Policy

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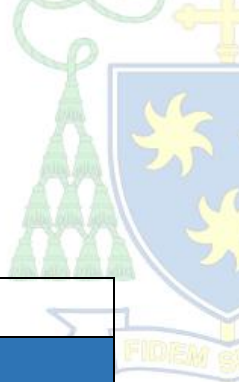
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POLICY DOCUMENT	SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY
Legislation: Education/Other	Statutory document for Academy Schools
Lead Member of Staff	Headteacher
Lead Governor	
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Academy Council Committee	
Review Frequency	Every 3 years
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Single Equality Scheme 2017 - 2020

Rationale:

The Equality Act 2010 and schools: The DfE issued Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities May 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

5.16 Under specific duties set out in previous equality legislation, schools were required to produce equality schemes in relation to race, disability and gender. Under the specific duties there are no requirements to create equality schemes. But schools may choose to continue producing such a scheme, if it helps them to comply with the Equality Duty, and they can expand it to cover the additional protected characteristics.

This Single Equality Scheme provides a format for addressing the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2010 and The Children and Families Act 2014. This supersedes and brings together all previous statutory duties in relation to race, gender and disability and also addresses the duty to promote community cohesion, thus meeting the school's statutory duties in these areas.

Single Equality Scheme 2017 -2020

Introduction

The scheme also highlights how our school has worked with and listened to the staff, pupils, parents and carers to inform development of action plans and the need and commitment required to ensure the scheme is a success. This is underpinned by a commitment to promoting positive relationships and understanding between all groups within our school community.

This document sets out how pupils with the following protected characteristics (previously known as equality strands) will be protected in our school from harassment and discrimination:-

- disability.
- gender.
- race.
- religion and belief.
- sexual orientation.
- gender reassignment.
- pregnancy and maternity.

The law on disability discrimination is different from the rest of the Equalities Act in a number of ways. In particular, it works in only one direction – that is to say, it protects disabled people but not people who are not disabled. This means that schools are allowed to treat disabled pupils more favourably than non-disabled pupils, and in some cases are required to do so, by making reasonable adjustments to put them on a more level footing



with pupils without disabilities. Provision for disabled pupils is closely connected with the provision for children with special educational needs. Chapter 4 of the Act deals in detail with disability issues.

This scheme extends however to cover all aspects of vulnerability, including those associated with socio-economic factors (e.g. pupils from low income families). As well as delivering high quality services to our pupils, the school is also committed to being a good employer and as such this scheme outlines how we meet our varied duties in terms of recruitment and employment practices. We are also committed to be fully inclusive of all community users, including parents and carers. As such, this scheme therefore also sets out how we will work to overcome any discrimination related to the other protected Characteristics:

- Age*
- Being married or in a civil partnership

*A person's age is also a protected characteristic in relation to employment and the Act extends this (except for children) to the provision of goods and services, but age as a protected characteristic does not apply to pupils in schools. Schools therefore remain free to admit and organise children in age groups and to treat pupils in ways appropriate to their age and stage of development without risk of legal challenge, even in the case of pupils over the age of 18.

Aims of the single equality scheme

- To articulate the school's commitment to equality which permeates all school policies and practices
- To ensure that everyone who belongs to, or comes into contact with, our school community is valued and respected
- To promote equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation
- To comply with statutory duties under equalities legislation in one document

Purpose of the Equality Scheme

This equality scheme is the school's response to the specific and general duties in the current equality legislation, which has been brought together under the Equality Act 2010. It is an attempt to capture how the school is systematically establishing and implementing good practice in equality and diversity across all areas of school life. This includes a response to all aspects of social identity and diversity.

This equality scheme sets out how the school will:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Eliminate harassment or victimisation related to any aspect of social identity or diversity;
- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote positive attitudes to all aspects of social identity and diversity;

- Encourage participation by disabled people and people representing different aspects of social identity in public life;
- Take steps to take account of difference even where that involves treating some people more favourably than others;
- Take proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of pupils.

Planning to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity

This scheme is underpinned by the core belief that all children and young people belong to their local community and share the same rights to membership of that community and a quality education. We set equality objectives with associated actions which are outlined within our equalities action plan that accompanies this Equality Scheme. Our plan identifies what we will be doing over the coming year to make our school more accessible to the whole community, irrespective of background or need.

It encompasses our duties to promote positive outcomes in relation to race, gender and disability, but also identifies actions to address other social identities. It encompasses our **anticipatory duties to plan ahead for the reasonable adjustments** (reasonable and proportionate steps to overcome barriers that may impede some pupils) we need to make to be best placed to help disabled pupils who come to our school.

This action plan replaces the school's Disability Accessibility Plan for the school (previously required under the planning duties in the Disability Discrimination Act) as it sets out how the school will increase access to education for disabled pupils, alongside other protected groups, in the three areas required:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

The action plan is renewed annually and progress towards the equality objectives within it is reported on regularly to governors, and this information is published at least annually.

Equality objectives have been identified through consultation with key stakeholders. Our equality objectives are published at least once every four years.

This action plan is understood and implemented by all staff and is available on the school website. It is available in different formats on request to the school office.



Our school has regard to the need to provide adequate resources for implementing plans and must regularly review them. (NB An accessibility plan may be a freestanding document but may also be published as part of another document such as the school development plan.)

OFSTED inspection may include the school's accessibility plan as part of their review.

Equality Objectives 2017-20

- to diminish the difference in performance of pp pupils;
- to reduce exclusion rates for pp boys;
- to raise attainment in English for boys;

School Vision and Values

St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School and Sixth Form College, with its distinctive Catholic identity, seeks to ensure the development of all students' spiritual, moral and academic potential, based on its commitment to Christ and His teachings.

As a community, the school is committed to the common good, which is achieved through the fostering of a co-operative and caring ethos, both with St Wilfrid's, parishes, family and the wider community.

Such an approach is based on the Christian principle of personal dignity and worth where each person's rights and responsibilities are recognised and respected, and their individual talents nurtured.

These talents include the search for academic excellence within a secure learning environment, where the needs and potential of all pupils are addressed and where achievement, both individual and collective, is celebrated.

The schools mission statement reflects the school's ambitions for all its pupils and has been developed with the whole community. It recognises and embraces the requirements of an inclusive curriculum, setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupil's diverse learning needs; overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

The school is committed to achieving and addressing any actions which are identified to improve our inclusive practice.



School Context

The nature of the school population and context to inform action planning for the equality scheme

Factors of the geographical location of the school:-

The school serves the parishes in the Wakefield and Pontefract Deanary. The school intake is similar to other schools in Wakefield and Pontefract.

The nature of the school population and context will inform action planning for the equality scheme.

The training taken to position the school well for the equality and diversity agenda

The school provides training to meet the needs of pupils; positive handling, induction training for all staff (SENCo updates) including medical, safeguarding, spiritual life, teaching and learning, tracking and monitoring, termly meetings to review pupil needs. Academy council training on safe recruitment and SEND

School provision

Reasonable adjustments the school makes as a matter of course

From September 2012 schools and local authorities have a duty to supply auxiliary aids and services as reasonable adjustments where these are not being supplied through Special Educational Needs (SEN) statements or from other sources. Additional high needs funding may be available on application to the local authority.

e.g.

- the ways in which information is currently provided for disabled pupils & parents/carers;
- steps that have been taken to create communication friendly/dyslexia friendly environments;
- how the school operates reasonable adjustments to the behaviour policy;
- *how the school records adaptations to provision in individual/personalised provision maps;*
- how the school involves pupils in planning provision;

Outcomes for pupils

Outcomes for pupils are analysed against social identity issues, i.e. gender, ethnicity, disability, faith background, and aspects of vulnerability identified by the school. This is compared with the outcomes made for all pupils.



These processes form part of the school's equality impact assessment processes to determine the impact of our provision on improving outcomes for identified pupils. In line with statutory requirements all new policies as well as existing policies and functions are evaluated for the impact they have, in consultation with identified pupils and parents/carers.

- Pupils attainment – analysis of pupil progress through regular tracking and monitoring
- The quality of particular groups of pupils' learning and the progress they make throughout the school
- The extent to which different groups of pupils feel safe (eg incidents of racism, bullying involving particular groups of pupils)
- The behaviour of particular groups of pupils (eg exclusion data for particular groups of pupils)
- The extent to which pupils from particular groups adopt healthy lifestyles
- The extent to which pupils from particular groups contribute to the school and wider community (eg participation in extra curricular activities, participation in school trips for particular groups of pupils)
- Attendance data for all pupils and for particular groups
- The effectiveness of the schools engagement with parents/carers of particular groups of pupils (eg attendance at parents meetings, involvement in planning provision, consultation with, results of parental feedback)
- Impact of the use of specific individual budgets eg Pupil premium.

Roles and Responsibilities in Implementing the Single Equality Scheme

The Head Teacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about the Single Equality Scheme;
- ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively;
- manage any day to day issues arising from the policy whether for pupils or for the school as an employer;
- ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the scheme;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available;
- monitor the scheme and report to the Academy Council at least annually, on the effectiveness of the policy;
- ensure that the SLT are kept up to date with any development affecting the policy/action plan arising from the scheme;
- provide appropriate support and monitoring for all pupils and specific and targeted pupils to whom the scheme has direct relevance, with assistance from relevant agencies.



School Staff will:

- Accept that this is a whole school issue and support the Single Equality Scheme;
- Be aware of the Single Equality Scheme and how it relates to them
- Make known any queries or training requirements
- Know how to manage incidents of concern, including bullying and how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping
- Know procedures for reporting incidents of racism, harassment or other forms of discrimination
- Not discriminate on racial, disability or other grounds
- Keep themselves up to date with relevant legislation and attend training and information events organised by the school, Trust or LA.
- Ensure that pupils from all groups are included in all activities and have full access to the curriculum
- Promote equality and diversity through teaching and through relations with pupils, staff, parents and wider community

Pupils will:

- be encouraged to express their views and contribute where possible to the formulation of policies
- be made aware of any relevant part of the scheme, appropriate to age and ability;
- be expected to act in accordance with any relevant part of the scheme
- experience a curriculum and environment which is respectful of diversity and difference and prepares them well for life in a diverse society;
- understand the importance of reporting discriminatory bullying and racially motivated incidents;
- ensure the peer support programme within the school promotes understanding and supports pupils who are experiencing discrimination.

Visitors and contractors are responsible for complying with the school's Equality Scheme – non-compliance will be dealt with by the Headteacher.



Involvement Processes

Policies are vital to identify and consolidate thinking regarding appropriate provision for pupils, however, they are often viewed as an end, when they should be seen as a process - always evolving in response to changes and evidence from impact assessments. When developing this Equality Scheme, the school is clear that this is a process which must be informed by the involvement of all participants such as pupils, parents, school staff, governors and external agencies. This will ensure that the school gleans insights into the barriers faced by people from different social identity backgrounds and learns the best ways to overcome such barriers. This Scheme will be informed, therefore, by:

- the views and aspirations of pupils themselves from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of parents of pupils from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of staff from different social identity backgrounds;
- the views and aspirations of members of the community and other agencies, including voluntary organisations, representing different social identity backgrounds;

Mechanisms for involvement

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **pupils** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Exit interviews with pupils;
- Student voice;
- *Twice yearly focus groups of pupils representing different social identity backgrounds, i.e., gender forum, disability forum;*
- *Individual interviews with pupils involved in incidents of a discriminatory nature or bullying related to discrimination;*
- Individual interviews with pupils experiencing reasonable adjustments;

At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **staff** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Exit interviews with staff;
- Regular meetings with union representatives;
- Regular staff meetings with specific agenda items;
- Individual discussions with staff as a part of performance management.



At this school the following mechanisms will ensure the views of **parents and the community** inform the Equality Scheme and action plan:

- Welcoming parents and the community into school so that they are critical drivers in policy development.
- *Feedback through the Academy Council meetings;*
- Feedback from adults using the school beyond the school day;
- Yearly open meetings with parents and local groups representing a particular theme.

The school's aims to focus on developing the involvement of pupils, staff and parents from different social identity backgrounds. We will consider varying the times, methods and the venues for this involvement to ensure the best possible attendance and ensure views can be heard. This way the school will learn what works and the involvement of pupils, staff and parents will improve and deepen over time.

Publication

This Equality Scheme will be published and available to anyone requesting a copy. It will be referenced in school newsletters and on the school's website.

Information is published demonstrating how the school is complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty and the school's equality objectives. The school updates its published information at least annually and publishes the equality objectives at least every four years.

It will be up to schools themselves to decide in what format they publish equality information. For most schools, the simplest approach may be to set up an equalities page on their website where all this information is present or links to it are available. The regulations are not prescriptive and it will be entirely up to schools to decide how they publish the information, so long as it is accessible to those members of the school community and the public who want to see it. (5.25 DfE Equalities Guidance May 2014)



Equality Legislation and Guidance

This equality scheme responds to the current equalities legislation.

- The Equality Act 2010 is the overarching legislation for all equality duties.

The act serves two main purposes:

- a) To harmonise discrimination law;
- b) To strengthen the law to support progress on equality.

The act supersedes or strengthens the following acts and regulations:

- The Equal Pay Act 1970
- The Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- The Race Relations Act 1976
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Employment Equality (Religion & Belief and Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
- The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- The Equality Act 2006 Part 2
- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007
- The SEN Code of Practice 2001

Overview of previous equalities legislation which has been harmonised and strengthened by Equality Act 2010:

- Race Relations Act (RRA) 1976/2000
statutory positive duty to promote racial equality, promote good race relations and eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
- Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) 1975 (and Regulations 1999), Gender Equality Duty 2007
statutory positive duty to promote gender equality and eliminate unlawful gender discrimination;
- Employment Equality (religion or belief) (sexual orientation) Regulations 2003
extended to education, Equality Act (Part 2) 2007 The Act sets out that is unlawful for schools to discriminate against a person:
 - a) in the terms on which it offers to admit him/her as a pupil:
 - b) by refusing to accept an application to admit him/her as a pupil, or
 - c) where he/she is a pupil of the establishment:
 - i) in the way in which it affords him/her access to any benefit, faculty or service,
 - ii) by refusing him/her access to a benefit, faculty or service,
 - iii) by excluding him/her from the establishment
 - iv) by subjecting him/her to any detriment.

- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995/2005 statutory positive duty to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people: pupils, staff, parents, carers and other people who use the school or may wish to, and eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- Education and Inspections Act 2006, duty to promote community cohesion.

By 'community cohesion' the school is endorsing and adopting the definition provided by Alan Johnson, 2006, as: "working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community."

Essential Further Guidance

DfE The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities (May 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Guidance for schools

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/education-providers-schools-guidance>

SEND Code of Practice January 2015- latest at 01.03.15 and effective from 01.04.15

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)