

# Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

*'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'*

## Equal Opportunities Policy and Equality Objective Statement.



By order of the Governing Body of Our Lady of Peace Primary School and  
Nursery

<b>Review Dates:</b>	<b>Reviewed:</b> F&P committee 08/02/2024	<b>Reviewed:</b> Under review
<b>Signatures:</b>	<b>Headteacher:</b> Mr N Stopps	<b>Chair of Governors:</b> Mrs D Main

### Statutory Policy

The school has a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

## 1. Aims

Our school aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty 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

## 2. Legislation and guidance

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](#).

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing body 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, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher

The equality link governor is Lisa Nash. They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality at least annually, and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full governing board regarding any issues

The headteacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst 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 in section 8.

## **4. 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 weekly briefing.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training annually.

The Headteacher is the designated member of staff for monitoring equality issues, and there is an equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

## **5. 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 which are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or those who seek to change gender.)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling children of other world faiths to practice during term time or pray at prescribed times of the school day if they wish to)
- 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 extra-curricular activities)

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

- Record and track instances of bullying including homophobic or transphobic bullying
- Authorise some absence in relation to observance of religious celebrations for children who practice other world faiths
- Continue to provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and sporting/cultural opportunities that meet the interests of our children and encourage those with protected characteristics to participate

## **6. 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 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
- 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 representatives of other faith groups to speak to children, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to further promote harmony between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. Our termly school magazine and photographs on the school website represent our diverse community. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work closely with Our Lady of Peace Parish and celebrate the many different cultures that make up our school community.

## **7. 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
- Is accessible to pupils who experience economic disadvantage
- Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls

Staff actively consider our equality duties and ask ourselves relevant questions when planning school trips and activities.

## **8. Equality objective**

To continue to adapt the curriculum and teaching so that all lessons are accessible to all learners to allow for them to achieve the best outcomes.

To ensure that the diversity of the school community is reflected across the pupil roles and responsibilities throughout the school Mission Team, School Council and Prefects.

To ensure that recruitment process takes into account with regards to relation of race, gender and disability, thus ensuring that the school evidences their commitment to the staff representing the community which they serve.

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The headteacher will update the equality information we publish, at least every year. This document will be reviewed by the governing body annually.

## **10. Links with other policies**

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Risk assessment