



Lamberhurst St Mary's CEP (VC) School

Equalities Information and Objectives (public sector equality duty) Statement for publication

(Taken from the Tenax Model Policy, Sept 2020)

2nd Edition

This policy will be reviewed every annually and at any other time if changes are required to comply with changes in legislation, regulation or national or KCC advice. Any amendments will require the approval of the full Governing Body.

Date of approval by Governing Body	19 July 2021
Signature of Chair of Governors	Mr P Edgesmith
Signature of Headteacher	Mrs C. Bromley
Date Due for review	Summer Term 2022

As a public body, schools must comply with the [public sector equality duty](#) in the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

Lamberhurst St Mary's School will publish:

- details of how the school complies with the [public sector equality duty](#) – updated annually
- school's equality objectives - updated at least once every 4 years
- And details of:
 - eliminating discrimination
 - improving equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics
 - consulting and involving those affected by inequality in the decisions the school takes to promote equality and eliminate discrimination (affected people could include parents, pupils, staff and members of the local community)

State-funded schools are required, in discharging their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; and
- advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Whilst this does not mean that schools are required to teach about the Equality Act or the protected characteristics, many choose to do so in teaching their pupils about respect for difference.

Lamberhurst St Mary's Equality Scheme

This document sets out how the school meets the Equality Duty as established in the 2010 Single Equality Act.

The scheme has been developed with the school's Christian values and principles as its basis. All employees are required to support the Christian ethos of the school in their professional life, in the tradition of the Church of England, and recruitment policies reflect that requirement as the law allows.

Equalities Statement in the Context of the School's Christian Ethos and Foundation

The entitlement to develop, learn and work in an environment free from discrimination is implicit in our Christian ethos, the core of which is the ultimate worth and dignity of every human being before God. The promotion of an understanding of human diversity in the community as positive and to be celebrated is central to the school's mission. No member of the school community shall suffer unfair direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Allegations of victimisation or harassment associated with discrimination shall be investigated and pursued in line with the school's grievance and discipline policies.

We recognise that in some cases it may be necessary to put in place more favourable treatment for some individuals or groups in the interests of securing sustainable equality or access and opportunity.

The assurance of equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination must permeate all aspects of school life, including in particular:

- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Behaviour and sanctions
- Student rewards
- Advice and guidance
- Personal development and pastoral care
- Extra-curricular opportunities and participation
- Admissions and attendance
- The curriculum and options
- Staff recruitment, promotion and professional development
- Partnerships with parents and communities

Aims

We are committed to:

- actively tackling discrimination and promoting equal opportunities and positive attitudes
- encouraging, supporting, and helping all students and staff to reach their potential
- working with parents and carers, and with the wider community, to tackle discrimination, and to follow and promote good practice
- making sure the equality scheme is implemented and monitoring its effectiveness in promoting race, gender and disability equality.

Responsibilities

A. The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- making sure the school complies with all equalities legislation
- making sure that the fundamental Christian belief in the value of each person regardless of background or circumstances permeates the school's ethos
- making sure the equality scheme is implemented and reviewed
- preparing and publishing the school's equality objectives

It will achieve these broad aims by:

- Promoting equality as an explicit aim in school policies, and ensuring it underpins all aspects of its work
- Ensuring policies reflect belief in diversity that embraces individuals and promotes community spirit
- Ensuring that the equality scheme is developed through consultation with the wider community
- Ensuring no pupils will be discriminated against in the provision of services offered to pupils that relate to education

- Ensuring that all recruitment, employment, promotion and staff development policy and practice reflect the ethos and requirements of equalities legislation
- Incorporating equality targets into the School Improvement Plan to ensure all individuals and groups, regardless of race, gender, disability or other factors achieve their potential and make good progress.

B. Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership team is responsible for

- making sure the equality scheme and equality compliance statement is published and that the staff, students, and their parents and carers and wider community know about it
- ensuring that employment practices, promotions and staff development are fair and actively non-discriminatory
- making sure the school equality objectives are delivered and reviewed, and details about the scheme and how it is working are reported on to governors, providing training for them on the scheme if necessary
- making sure all staff know their responsibilities and receive training and support in carrying these out
- taking appropriate action in cases of harassment or discrimination on the grounds of a protected characteristic

C. All staff

All staff are responsible for

- dealing with racist, sexist or disability harassment incidents, and being able to recognise and tackle racial, gender or disability bias and stereotyping
- promoting equal opportunities, positive attitudes, and avoiding discrimination against anyone on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- keeping up to date with the law on discrimination, and taking up training and learning opportunities
- being aware of the importance of equality and fairness as a staff body, and drawing attention to any areas or events which may cause concern

E. Visitors and contractors

Visitors and contractors are responsible for knowing, and following, the single Equality Duty.

Implementation

All of the school's policies and procedures should reflect the principles outlined in this single equality scheme.

We will operate the scheme in respect of all staff appointments and promotions and will monitor gender and ethnicity balance. Subject teaching and pastoral programmes of study should take into account the objectives and guidelines within this scheme. Information will be collected about pupils' performance and progress in all areas of activity, including racial groupings, to analyse trends that could have an adverse impact on students' attainment. All contraventions of this scheme will be treated as disciplinary matters.

Putting the Equalities Scheme into Practice

This scheme will be published as part of the school's policy documentation, and will be made available to any staff, students, parents or others who request it. Any breaches of this scheme will be treated with gravity and dealt with via normal disciplinary procedures.

The school accessibility plan is in place and regularly updated to ensure that progress is being made towards making opportunities increasingly available to students with physical, emotional or cognitive disabilities.

Evaluation

The Headteacher will be required to draw up equality objectives every four years and annually publish information demonstrating how they are meeting the aims of the general public sector equality duty.

Effectiveness of the scheme will be reviewed by the governing body, including a review of progress against equality objectives, and its impact upon the raising of all pupils' levels of attainment.

The revision of the scheme will be ongoing, ensuring the involvement and commitment of the whole school community. The statement will be reviewed annually.

Appendix A: Equality Objectives and Annual Statement for Lamberhurst St Mary's School

Equality Objectives 2021-22			
Objectives	Action	Who	Date
To publish information showing due regard for equalities as defined by the Equality Act 2010	Annually publish attainment data for all groups	HT	Ongoing
To narrow the gap for pupils identified in vulnerable groups: between advantaged and disadvantaged children (pupil premium), SEND and LSM Nurture Pupils, focussing on attendance, punctuality, parental involvement and wider school enrichment opportunities to support learning and well-being.	Track attendance, punctuality, learning outcomes and well-being of these pupils Develop strategies to encourage and support improved attendance, punctuality, learning outcomes and well-being Develop strategies to encourage and promote engagement in Enrichment activities and opportunities	Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Teaching Teams	Ongoing
To increase the membership of children who may be affected by discrimination and lack of equal opportunity in wrap around care clubs co-curriculum clubs and activities, and in this way to reduce or remove inequalities in attainment throughout the school, particularly inequalities relating to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act.	Monitor co-curriculum participation Reports on participation rates presented and discussed at leadership level Take-up of co-curriculum opportunity promoted with vulnerable students and where relevant PP funding used	HT, SLT, Governing Body	Ongoing
To provide wraparound care for families and reduce and remove inequalities for all children to be able to attend and remove any barriers for attendance.	Monitor the use of breakfast and after school clubs Ensure that clubs are promoted and vulnerable families signposted.	HT and SLT	Ongoing
To ensure all children have equal access to the curriculum regardless of their race, gender, physical or emotional needs.	Careful data monitoring and review of pupil attainment and progress throughout the year.	SLT	Termly
To reduce and thereby eliminate the use of discriminatory language, particularly focusing on language related to protected characteristics	Raise staff awareness of protected characteristics and associated discriminatory language Raise students' awareness and resistance through anti-bullying assemblies and curriculum	SLT and Teaching Teams	Ongoing
The senior leadership team has completed an annual review of the aims of the Equality Scheme and believes that the school meets the requirements of the general public sector equality duty.			