

# Equality Information and Objectives

St James' CE Primary School



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### **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](#).

This document also complies with our Trust's funding agreement and articles of association.

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

#### **Our governing body will:**

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout our school, including to staff, pupils and parents
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year (pupil population), and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 2 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher
- Ensure they are familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training

#### **Our 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 10.

### **4. Eliminating discrimination**

Our 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 meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training every September. All staff are provided with an 'Equality Handbook' as part of their induction and again annually thereafter.

### **5. Advancing equality of opportunity**

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, our 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 gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- 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 school societies)

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

- Publish attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
- Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information

- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying)
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

## **6. Fostering good relations**

Our 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, citizenship 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
- Having lessons and 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 leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within our school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is made up of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in our school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach.

## **7. Equality considerations in decision-making**

Our school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

Our school always considers the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, our school considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays
- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities
- Has equivalent facilities for boys and girls

## **8. Our school community**

In addition to pupils with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act, our school gathers further information on the following groups of pupils which includes our socio-economic duty:

- Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)
- Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Young carers
- Looked after children (LAC)
- Children of members of the armed forces
- Offending past

- Privately fostered

As it may be possible to identify individuals from the information provided when the number of pupils with a particular characteristic is low and the information is special category information, the information will be excluded from publication but will be taken fully into consideration when developing and determining our policies, procedures, and equality objectives.

### **Academic Year 2024-25:**

Number of pupils on roll at the school: 161

Age range of pupils: 4 – 11

Gender: 58% male 42% female

Race: split by kind/% (White British 79%, White English 62%, Black-African 4.3%, Any Other Ethnic Group 3%, Any Other Asian Background, Sri Lankan 2.4%, Filipino 1.24%, White and Black African 1.24%, White Eastern European 1.24%, White European 1.24%, Any Other White Background 1.24%)

EAL: 13% (Languages include: Romanian, Slovak, Italian, Sinhala, Turkish, Urdu, Arabic, English, Lithuanian and Spanish)

Religion/Belief: split by kind/% (Information not provided 36%, No religion 19%, Church of England 14%, Christian 14%, Catholic 7.5%, Muslim 5%, Buddhist 0.62%, Protestant 0.62%, Christian Orthodox 1.2%)

Disability: 0%

Special Educational Needs: 15.5%

Pupil Premium: 44%

Young carers: 1.24%

Looked after children: 1.87%

Children of members of the armed forces: 0%

School Attendance: 94.6%

**Gender Reassignment** - The school did not have any information on whether any of the children on roll had reassigned their gender.

**Sexual Identity** - The school have not been made aware as to whether any of the pupils on roll identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender (LGBT+).

As our school has fewer than 150 members of staff, we are not required to publish data about our staff. However, employee-related statistics for our Trust will be published centrally to demonstrate that we are complying with the general duty. When doing this, our Trust will be aware of the data protection rules, ensuring individuals are not identified through the publication of data.

## **9. Equality Objectives**

### **Equality Objective 1 – Linked to promotion of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

**OBJECTIVE: to continue to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities with particular reference to issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** From an analysis of our school profile alongside the demographics of our local area we know that our school community is not fully representative of life in Modern Britain. We want our community to embrace the uniqueness of the human race more readily and to have the opportunity to explore a range of issues pertinent to the protected characteristics as part of their education provision.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** Continue to develop, review and thoroughly embed our bespoke curriculum area called 'St James Spirit'. These lessons will allow children the opportunity to explore issues surrounding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion on a weekly basis. The development of a 'St James Spirit' reading spine will support teachers and pupils in the exploration of key themes and in their developing spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

**Outcome:** To raise awareness of the protected characteristics alongside key issues pertaining to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** The Senior Leadership Team have written a scheme of work for St James Spirit across all year groups. This is reviewed and updated regularly. The Inclusion Lead is working towards obtaining the Schools of Sanctuary Award.

### **Equality Objective 2: Linked to Pupil Attendance/Disadvantage**

**OBJECTIVE: To continue to explore and understand the reasons for the disproportionately higher level of persistent absenteeism for those in receipt of PPG compared to those not in receipt of this additional funding.**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** Our school's attendance figures for 2023/24 (YR-Y6), showed that 14% of the school community has attendance below 90%. This is classed as 'persistent absenteeism'. Out of this 14%, 33% are children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant and are therefore considered to be disadvantaged.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** Continue to identify best practice from the LDST Attendance Hub, other LDST schools and local schools with similar issues. Our Attendance Designated Lead, Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager and Family Support and Families and Well-being Champion, alongside the SLT, will continue to work closely with families of those both at persistent absentee level and at risk of becoming a persistent absentee in the future. We will continue to review and embed a clear reward system for attendance at all levels.

**Outcome:** To reduce the number of persistent absenteeism across all pupils but with particular focus on those who are disadvantaged. This will ensure that all children make the necessary progress, and that the importance of regular school attendance is reaffirmed with families.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** The Attendance Team meets weekly to review the attendance for the week and set actions for the following week and attend Attendance Hub Network meetings. Meetings with those children 'at risk' of falling below 90% are routinely occurring to offer support wherever possible. Attendance Competitions are being actively promoted. Case Studies have been completed to explore wider attendance issues are taking place with further support being offered where necessary.

### **Equality Objective 3: Linked to Pupil Attainment/Disadvantage**

**OBJECTIVE: To mitigate the impact of school closures on disadvantaged pupils.**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** Our internal data, which is discussed termly at Pupil Progress Meetings, indicates that there are gaps in attainment in several classes between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** Effectively utilise funding streams such as Pupil Premium Grant to focus upon EEF recommended strategies (Teaching and Whole School Strategies, Targeted Support and Wider Strategies). Implement PPG successfully through regular monitoring, ensuring they have the desired impact upon pupils.

**Outcome:** The gap between the attainment of disadvantaged and all pupils closes.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** All strategy statements have been quality assured by our Trust. Monitoring occurs regularly. Updates are made to assessment and recording systems to ensure data is thoroughly analysed and clear actions identified.

#### **Equality Objective 4: Linked to Pupil Attainment/Gender**

**OBJECTIVE: To explore and understand the barriers to success in literacy boys face across KS2**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** Our internal data, which is discussed termly at Pupil Progress Meetings, indicates that there are gaps in attainment in several classes between boys' and girls' reading and writing results.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** Explore best practice at other LDST, local and national schools who may have encountered similar issues. Embed new reading and writing schemes. Conduct action research projects centered around boys' engagement with reading and writing.

**Outcome:** Use the information gathered to develop new approaches, strategies and initiatives aimed at developing literacy skills with a particular on boys' development.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** A new Reading and Writing scheme has been introduced. The LDST English Network is regularly attended so as to share and learn from successful practice.

#### **10. Monitoring arrangements**

The Headteacher will update the equality information we publish at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by the governing body and Headteacher at least every 4 years.

This document will be approved by the governing body.

#### **11. Links with other policies**

This document links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

LDST Equality and Inclusion Policy

SEND Policy/Plan

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement

Catch Up Strategy Statement

St James Spirit Policy

RHSE Policy

Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy

Exclusions Policy

All Employment Policies

