

**Aston St Mary's**



Church of England (VA)  
Primary School

**ASTON ST MARY'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.**



**The Diocese  
of St Albans**

## **POLICY FOR SCHOOL EQUALITIES AND COHESION**

Effective from:	July 24
Review Date:	July 25
Author:	HT, Governing Body



## Aston St Mary's Primary School Policy

<b>Subject: school equalities and cohesion policy</b>	
<b>Effective Date: July 24</b>	<b>Author: HT, Governing Body</b>
<b>Next Review Date: July 25</b>	

At Aston St Mary's School, we know all of us are God's children and surrounded by his love. Our school vision states, 'every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.' The policy is particularly important to our whole school community at Aston School. We want and expect all individuals to be treated equally, no matter what differences we may have. We celebrate differences, as we all continue to grow together, surrounded by God's love.

### Legal duties

1. We welcome our duties under the Race Relations 1976 as amended by the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000; the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005; and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 as amended by the Equality Act 2006.
2. We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.
3. We recognise that these sets of duties are essential for achieving the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters framework, and that they reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

### Guiding principles

4. In fulfilling the legal obligations referred to above, we are guided by seven principles.

#### **Principle 1: All learners are of equal value**

We see all learners and potential learners as of equal value:

- whether or not they are disabled
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status
- whichever their gender.

#### **Principle 2: We recognise and respect diversity**

Treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate, but are differentiated, as appropriate, to take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people may face, in relation to:

- disability, so that reasonable adjustments are made
- ethnicity, so that different cultural backgrounds and experiences of prejudice are recognised
- gender, so that the different needs and experiences of girls and boys, women and men are recognised.

### **Principle 3: We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging**

We intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote:

- positive attitudes towards disabled people, good relations between disabled and non-disabled people, and an absence of harassment of disabled people
- positive interaction, good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents
- mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, women and men, and an absence of sexual harassment

### **Principle 4: Staff recruitment, retention and development**

Policies and procedures should benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development:

- whether or not they are disabled
- whatever their ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status
- whichever their gender.

### **Principle 5: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist**

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between:

- disabled and non-disabled people
- people of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- girls and boys, women and men.

### **Principle 6: We consult widely**

People affected by a policy or activity should be consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones. We involve:

- disabled people as well as non-disabled
- people from a range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- both women and men, and girls and boys.

### **Principle 7: Society as a whole should benefit**

We intend that our policies and activities should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in public life of:

- disabled people as well as non-disabled
- people of a wide range of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- both women and men, girls and boys.

## **Action plans**

5. We recognise that the actions resulting from a policy are what make a difference. These are considered in all school plans and are ongoing working documents.

## The curriculum

6. We keep each curriculum subject or area under review in order to ensure that teaching and learning reflect the seven principles in principle 5 above.

## Ethos and organisation

7. As a Church of England school our Christian and British values ensure that the principles listed in principle 5 above apply also to the full range of our policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:
  - learners' progress, attainment and assessment
  - learners' personal development, welfare and well-being
  - teaching styles and strategies
  - admissions and attendance
  - staff recruitment, retention and professional development
  - care, guidance and support
  - behaviour, discipline and exclusions
  - working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
  - working with the wider community.

## Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

8. The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice which stand in the way of fulfilling the legal duties referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2:
  - prejudices around disability and special educational needs
  - prejudices around racism and xenophobia, including those that are directed towards religious groups and communities, for example antisemitism and

Islamophobia, and those that are directed against Travellers, refugees and people seeking asylum

- prejudices reflecting sexism and homophobia.
9. There is guidance in the staff training on how prejudice-related incidents should be identified, assessed, recorded and dealt with.
  10. We take seriously our obligation to report regularly to the local authority about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how they were dealt with.

### Roles and responsibilities

11. The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and strategies are implemented.
12. A member of the governing body has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.
13. The headteacher is responsible for implementing the policy; for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support; and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.
14. All staff are expected to:
  - promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
  - deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
  - identify and challenge bias and stereotyping in the curriculum
  - support pupils in their class for whom English is an additional language
  - keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

### Information and resources

15. We ensure that the content of this policy is known to all staff and governors and, as appropriate, to all pupils and parents.
16. All staff and governors have access to a selection of resources which discuss and explain concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion in appropriate detail.

### **Religious observance**

17. We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all staff, pupils and parents, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

### **Staff development and training**

18. We ensure that all staff, including support and administrative staff, receives appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

#### Breaches of the policy

19. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, as determined by the headteacher and governing body.

#### Monitoring and evaluation

20. We collect, study and use quantitative and qualitative data relating to the implementation of this policy, and make adjustments as appropriate.
21. To review good practice we make use of a range of auditing schedules.

#### **AUTHORISATION**

Signed by the chair of the Governing Body, who approved this policy on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

**Signed**

