



Federation of St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools
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'where great lives begin'

Equality and Diversity in Employment October 2016

Introduction

1.1 The Equality and Diversity in Employment Policy details the schools approach to equality and diversity to ensure fair and lawful practices and procedures at all times throughout recruitment and employment. This policy is closely linked to all employment policies and ensures that the school fulfils its obligations as an employer under the Equality Act 2010.

2. Equality and Diversity policy statement

2.1 The school is committed to equality of opportunity throughout employment (including pay, training & development, recruitment and retention) and commits to having in place policies, practices and procedures that promote equality and diversity and anti-discriminatory practices.

2.2 Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and afforded equality of access to opportunities that are available within the working environment. By valuing diversity, all staff recognise and embrace that everyone has unique identities which will help to ensure that the school can provide the best services to students possible.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy and procedure applies to all employees and prospective employees (job applicants and prospective job applicants) of the school and former employees with regards to the provision of an employment reference.

3.2 The school is also committed to equality in relation to all workers, contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, agency workers, employees seconded from other organisation, governors and volunteers and these groups are expected to adhere to the principles set out in this policy and procedure whilst undertaking work or tasks for the school.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Head teacher is responsible for:

- Overseeing the preparation and publishing one or more equality objectives that the school believes it needs to achieve to further the general equality duty. These objectives will be reviewed and updated at least every four years.
- Producing an annual report on workforce equality and diversity information for the governors that provides the opportunity for consideration of information in the context of the school's workforce planning and potential positive action in appropriate areas.
- Agreeing the equality objectives with the governing body and where necessary including these in the school development plan.

4.2 All employees are responsible for:

- Personal responsibility to comply with this policy, associated policies (such as the Bullying and Harassment Policy and the Code of Conduct).
- Abiding by the Equality Act 2010 when dealing with each other, managing staff and in their relationships with children, parents, carers, governors and other stakeholders.
- Treating colleagues, governors, pupils, volunteers, visitors, and members of the public with dignity and respect.
- Embracing a culture that provides supportive and positive working relationships and behaviour, which underpins the school's vision and values.
- Be mindful of and take action to avoid becoming involved in any form of discrimination.
- Make colleagues aware if their conduct or behaviour is inappropriate and to reporting this to the headteacher.
- Providing support to employees who are subject to inappropriate conduct or behaviour.
- Promote good community and workplace relations to foster and encourage an atmosphere of tolerance and support so that there is no place for behaviours which would negatively impact upon the community or school.
- Informing the school of any reasonable adjustments that may assist.

5. The Equality Act 2010

5.1 The Equality Act 2010 brings together previous legislation to protect people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. The Act covers nine 'protected characteristics' which qualify for protection from discrimination under the act include:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

5.2 The Equality Act 2010 created a general equality duty that public bodies are required to have 'due regard' to when making decisions and developing policies these are the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation 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, which means:
 - Removing or minimising disadvantages
 - Taking steps to meet different needs
 - Encouraging participation when it is disproportionately low
- Foster good relations across all protected characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

5.3 To help meet the general equality duty there are two specific duties that schools in England are required to carry out. These are:

- To publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the equality duty (see paragraph 6)
- To prepare and publish one or more specific and measurable equality objectives (See paragraph 7)

5.4 Further information on discrimination may be found at [ACAS 'The Equality Act 2010 – Guidance for Employers'](#)¹ and on the [DfE Equality Act 2010 Advice for Schools](#)². Equality is also an important aspect of the Ofsted common inspection framework, see the [Ofsted School Inspection Handbook](#)³ for further details.

6. Workforce monitoring

6.1 As part of the Equality Act 2010 obligations the school will:

- Collect and use enough workforce data and monitoring information to effectively meet the general equality duty.

¹ www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/8/a/Equality-Act-2010-guide-for-employers.pdf

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015

- Publish information about the impact of their employment functions on people with the different protected characteristics in order to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty.

6.2 In addition, those schools with 150 or more employees', information on workforce monitoring must be published on their website. Schools must do this annually by the 6 April each year.

7. Disability Policy

Disabled Staff Working in Schools

7.1 The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on an individual's ability to carry out normal-day to day activities.

7.2 There are some types of physical and mental conditions which might be treated as a disability under the Equality Act 2010 depending on the effect that have on the individual's daily life. This includes:

- Hearing and visual impairments;
- Conditions where the effects vary over time or come in episodes such as osteoarthritis and ME;
- Progressive conditions such as motor neurone disease and forms of dementia; Conditions which affect certain organs such as heart disease and asthma
- Learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dyspraxia;
- Autistic spectrum disorders;
- Mental health conditions, for example depression, bipolar affective disorders, eating disorders;
- Impairments due to injury to the body or brain.

Reasonable adjustments

7.3 The school will make reasonable adjustments that can assist a disabled employee, governor or potential candidate gain or stay in employment with the school.

7.4 The adjustments may include physical changes to the workplace for example changing lighting and adding signage to auxilliary aids for example specialist equipment such as adapted keyboards, voice recognition software, and sign language interpreters.

7.5 The following factors may be taken into consideration to determine how reasonable and adjustment might be:

- How effective it would be in helping the employee overcome a disadvantage;
- How practical it would be for the school to make the adjustment;
- The financial costs and the extent of any disruption;

- The availability of financial or other assistance in making the adjustment.

7.6 Where reasonable adjustments may be necessary the school will discuss this with the individual at a stage at which adjustments will enable access, ensure good attendance and performance. The employee is entitled to keep a health condition confidential if they wish. However, disclosure through the Occupational Health Service should be made to trigger serious consideration of any reasonable adjustments that might be made.

7.7 The Equality Act 2010 prohibits prospective employers from asking about a job applicant's health except in certain specified circumstances where it might affect the applicant's ability to carry out a function, which is intrinsic to the work. This is a matter for a health professional to determine. Applicants are encouraged to inform the school of any reasonable adjustments that they may need when called to interview.

7.8 Funding for adjustments may be available through the Government's [Access to Work](#)⁴ scheme. It is the employee's responsibility to contact Access to Work to identify what support may be available under this scheme.

7.9 In community schools, the local authority is the employer and it is the authority's budget, rather than the school's which would be taken into account in relation to capital funding for adjustments to premises.

8. Monitoring & review

8.1 The school will maintain a log of all reported breaches of this policy and review this policy every two years.