



St Matthias
ACADEMY



Equality Information and Objectives Policy 2021-2022

We will provide a learning environment that empowers, challenges and encourages individual success and social responsibility.

St Matthias Academy actively promotes the principles of equality and inclusion for all its students.

**Date: September 2019
Reviewed Date: September 2021
Next Review: September 2022**

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Statement of intent

St Matthias Academy recognises that certain groups in society have historically been disadvantaged because of unlawful discrimination they have faced due to their race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

This policy will put in place a range of actions to eliminate prejudice, unlawful discrimination and victimisation within the school community and workforce.

Signed by:

Head Teacher:

Date:

Chair of Academy

Council:

Date:

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This policy also has due regard for non-statutory guidance, including the following:

- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following Academy policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

The Equality Act 2010 provides a modern, single legal framework with three broad duties:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the purpose of this policy, the Equality Act 2010 will be referred to as 'the Act'.

The Academy fully understands the principles of the Act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equal opportunities.

Protected characteristics, under the Act, are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnicity
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- In relation to admissions.
- In the way it provides education for pupils.

- In the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service.
- By excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The Academy's liability not to discriminate, harass or victimise does not end when a pupil has left the Academy, but will apply to subsequent actions connected to the previous relationship between Academy and pupil, such as the provision of references on former pupils or access to "old pupils" communications and activities. The Academy will promote equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and will work in line with the Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work Policy.

2. Principles and aims

We see all learners and potential learners, and their parent/carers, as of equal value, regardless of any protected characteristic. Our policies, procedures and activities will not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences in life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barriers and disadvantages which people may face in relation to any protected characteristic. The Academy will promote race equality and have due regard to eliminating unlawful racial discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups. The Academy will promote disability equality, ensuring equality of opportunity, eliminating unlawful discrimination and disability-related harassment and encouraging participation by disabled people in public life. The Academy will promote gender equality by eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment, and promote the equality of opportunity between men and women, girls and boys. Transgender people are explicitly covered by the PSED. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'transgender' refers to an individual whose gender expression or identity is different from that traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. The Academy will respect the confidentiality of those seeking gender reassignment and will provide a supportive environment within the community. The Academy is opposed to all forms of prejudice and recognises that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fare less well in the education system. The Academy will ensure that all staff comply with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations. The Academy's Admissions Policy will not discriminate against any protected characteristic in any way.

The Academy will:

- Ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities, given necessary training and support, and report progress to the Academy Council.
- Ensure that the recording and reporting of equality and diversity is sufficiently scrutinised.
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, a shared sense of cohesion and belonging, and ensure this is promoted in our policies, procedures and activities.
- Observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development, and ensure that all policies and procedures benefit all employees and potential employees regardless of any protected characteristic, and with full respect for legal rights relating to pregnancy and maternity.
- Reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.
- Engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy, procedure or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones.
- Ensure that policies, procedures and activities benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion, and greater participation in the public life of everyone, regardless of any protected characteristic.

- Ensure staff promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the Academy, challenging inappropriate language and behaviour, responding appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, and showing appropriate support for pupils with additional needs, maintaining a good level of awareness of issues surrounding equality.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Academy Council will:

- Ensure that the Academy complies with the appropriate equality legislation and regulations.
- Meet its obligations under the PSED to publish equality objectives at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.
- Ensure that the Academy's policies and procedures are developed and implemented with appropriate equality impact assessments informing future plans.
- Ensure that the Academy's Admissions Policy does not discriminate in any way.
- Ensure equal opportunities in its staff recruitment and promotion practices, professional development programmes and in membership of the Academy Council.
- Proactively recruit high-quality applicants from under-represented groups.
- Provide information in appropriate and accessible formats.
- Ensure that the necessary disciplinary measures are in place to enforce this policy.

The Head Teacher will:

Implement this policy and its procedures.

- Ensure that all staff members receive the appropriate equality and diversity training as part of their induction and CPD.
- Ensure that all parent/carers, visitors and contractors are aware of, and comply with, the provisions of this policy.
- Actively challenge and take appropriate action in any case of discriminatory practice.
- Address any reported incidents of harassment or bullying in line with DfE guidance.
- Produce an annual report on the progress of implementing the provisions of this policy and report it to the Academy Council.

Employees will:

- Be mindful of any incidents of harassment or bullying in the Academy.
- Address any minor issues of harassment or bullying and report any major breaches of the policy to the Head Teacher.
- Identify and challenge bias and stereotyping within the curriculum and the Academy's culture.
- Promote equality and good relations, and not harass or discriminate in any way.
- Monitor pupils' progress and academic needs to ensure the appropriate support is in place.
- Keep up-to-date with equality legislation and its application by attending the appropriate training.

Pupils will:

- Not discriminate or harass any other pupil or staff member.

- Actively encourage equality and diversity in the Academy by contributing their cultural experiences and values.
- Report any incidences of bullying or harassment, whether to themselves or to others, to the Family Group Tutor or to another member of staff.
- Abide by all the Academy's equality and diversity policies, procedures and codes.

The Academy will have an equality information on its website, in order to demonstrate how it is complying with the PSED in the Equality Act 2010, and advancing equality of opportunity.

4. Equality objectives

The Academy is committed to promoting the welfare and equality of all its staff, pupils and other members of the Academy community. To achieve this, the Academy has established the following objectives:

- Monitor changes to the curriculum to ensure they result in good outcomes for pupils in all vulnerable groups, and to review the curriculum considering new performance measures
- Offer appropriate qualifications in English for pupils in all vulnerable groups
- Implement effective strategies to support pupils in all vulnerable groups following exam courses
- Improve the quality of support for pupils in all vulnerable groups in the classroom. Continue to explore the use of new technologies to support pupils in all vulnerable groups in accessing their learning. The school will update all published equality documentation annually and will publish its objectives at least every four years

5. Collecting and using information

The Academy will collect equality information for the purpose of:

- Identifying key issues, e.g. unlawful discrimination in teaching methods.
- Assessing performance, e.g. benchmarking against similar organisations locally or nationally.
- Taking action, e.g. adapting working practice to accommodate the needs of staff who share protected characteristics.

The Academy will build an equality profile for staff to assist with identifying any issues within their recruitment regime. The Academy will obtain the following information from their staff:

- Recruitment and promotion
- Numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- Pay and remuneration
- Training
- Return to work of women on maternity leave
- Return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disabilities
- Appraisals
- Grievances (including about harassment)
- Disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- Dismissals and other reasons for leaving

The Academy will use the information they obtain to analyse any gaps present in their equality documentary, including the Equal Opportunities Policy. Any personal data the Academy collects will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

6. Publishing information

The Academy will publish information to demonstrate its compliance with the Act. The Academy will publish findings in their annual report.

7. Promoting equality

In order to meet our objectives, the Academy has identified the following priorities:

- The Academy will provide auxiliary aids that are directly related to disabled pupil's educational needs as a reasonable adjustment, so they can integrate wholly in all parts of Academy life.
- Staff will ensure that all pupils are able to take part in extra-curricular activities and residential visits, and the Academy will monitor uptake of these visits to ensure no one is disadvantaged on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- The Academy will ensure that all forms of prejudice-motivated bullying is taken seriously and dealt with equally and firmly.
- There will be differential schemes of work designed to meet the abilities and learning styles of all pupils.
- There will be a clearly defined behaviour system stipulated in the Learning & Engagement (Behavioural) Policy.
- The Academy will increase access for disabled children and young people to the Academy curriculum and will take necessary steps to meet pupils' needs by using a variety of approaches and planning reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, enabling them to take as full a part as possible in the activities of the Academy.
- The Academy will ensure there is adequate access to the physical environment of the Academy.
- The Academy will improve the delivery of written information to disabled children and young people.
- The Academy will seek the views of advisory staff, outside agencies and local schools.
- Throughout the year, the Academy will plan ongoing events to raise awareness of equality and diversity.

The Academy will consult with stakeholders to establish equality objectives and draw up a plan based on information collected on protected groups and accessibility planning. Equality objectives will be published at least every four years commencing on the date of the last publication.

Bullying and prejudice will be carefully monitored and dealt with accordingly. Training will be given to both existing and new staff to ensure that they are aware of the process for reporting and following up incidents of prejudice related bullying.

8. Addressing prejudice-related incidents

The Academy is opposed to all forms of prejudice and we recognise that pupils and staff who experience any form of prejudice-related discrimination may fare less well in the education system.

The Academy will ensure that pupils and staff are aware of the impact of prejudice in order to prevent any incidents from occurring. If incidents continue to occur, the Academy will address them immediately and report them to the Trust.

9. Appeal process

Staff members retain the right to appeal against a decision on the acceptability of their appearance e.g. dress code, using the Academy's grievance procedure. The Academy will adhere to the Complaints Procedures Policy when following the grievance procedure.

10. Curriculum

All pupils will be entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum and to teaching and learning opportunities which meet their needs, including extra support where this has been identified as a statutory need. When planning the curriculum, the Academy will take every opportunity to promote and advance equality. When teaching the curriculum, the Academy will promote equality and will not subject individuals to discrimination. The Academy will develop an appropriate curriculum for all pupils in all vulnerable groups.

The Academy will ensure PSHE lessons are designed for pupils to develop their knowledge of the world and the importance of equality.

11. Monitoring and review

The Head Teacher will review this policy annually, to ensure that all procedures are up-to-date. The policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Head Teacher and Academy Council in the following ways:

- Individual attainment data
- Equal opportunities recruitment data
- Equality impact assessments
- Ofsted inspection judgements on equality and diversity
- Incident records related to harassment and bullying

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.