

Mark 12: Verse 31

“Love your neighbour as you love yourself.”



EQUALITY POLICY

(Encompassing equal opportunities, equality, Equality Act 2010, race equality)

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Our Academy Vision is “Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope”. We aspire to take dignified decisions and afford dignity to all members of our community, regardless of background or circumstance. Our position as a Voluntary Aided Church Academy means that the Christian faith has a central role in all of our actions and decisions. We strive for excellence in all that we do, enabling our students to transform their lives and to hope for happy and successful futures.

Introduction

At All Saints Academy, our vision is “Living Well Together with Dignity, Faith and Hope and this translates into our everyday practice. All Saints Academy is deeply committed to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion and actively promotes this with its staff, governors, volunteers, pupils, parents / carers and all in the academy community.

We focus on the well-being and progress of every child and where all members of our community are of equal worth. Our equality policy is closely linked to our values and particularly those of respect, trust, wisdom, resilience, determination, courage and happiness. We also fulfil our caring ethos as a Church Academy by

- Ensuring that all members of our community are treated with dignity and are of equal value and shall be enabled to develop to their full potential.
- We recognise, respect and value difference and understand that diversity is a strength
- We foster positive attitudes and relationships and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
- We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development
- We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist
- Equality and acceptance of everyone, regardless of faith, is central to our academy’s Christian ethos which follows the example of Jesus and the New Testament
- We aim to support social justice and social mobility preparing pupils for life in a diverse society

We believe that the Equality Act 2010 provides a framework to support our commitment to valuing diversity, tackling discrimination, promoting equality and fostering good relationships between people. It also ensures that we continue to tackle issues of disadvantage and underachievement of different groups. We recognise that these duties 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.

Key principles

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This policy encompasses the following protected characteristics:

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

The Academy does not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying or discrimination (see the section on linked policies for related policies).

Equality and the law

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics).

This means that no-one should be discriminated against or treated less favourably because of their sex (gender), race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or pregnancy or maternity, age, marriage and civil partnerships.

The Act requires all public organisations, including Academies to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and two specific duties:

The Public Sector Equality Duty or “general duty”

This requires all public organisations, including Academies, to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

Two “specific duties”

This requires all public organisations, including Academies, to

1. Publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty
2. Publish Equality objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable

We understand from time to time further legislation and guidance is published by Government and relevant legal bodies and we will continually monitor and implement relevant policy and practice to ensure compliance.

Roles and Responsibilities

All governors, staff, volunteers, students and their families need to develop an appropriate understanding of, and act in accordance with, the Academy’s Equality Policy.

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The Governing Body is responsible for the implementation of this policy and will delegate the day to day operational responsibility to the Principal.

The Personal, Development, Behaviour and Welfare Committee will have a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.

Key contacts:

Staff Member responsible: Elaine Boyd, Vice Principal

Link Governor: Matthew Collins

What we are doing to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- We take account of equality issues in relation to admissions and exclusions; the way we provide education for our students and the way we provide access for students to facilities and services
- We are aware of the Reasonable Adjustment duty for disabled students – designed to enhance access and participation to the level of non-disabled students and stop disabled children being placed at a disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers
- The Principal ensures that all appointment panels give due regard to this policy so that no one is discriminated against when it comes to employment, promotion or training opportunities
- We ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones
- We take seriously the need to consider the equality implications when we develop, adapt and review any policy or procedure and whenever we make significant decisions about the day to day life of the Academy.
- We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum and by creating an environment which champions respect for all
- We ensure that our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and we do not discriminate against students by treating them less favourably on the grounds of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity
- The Academy's Behaviour Policy takes full account of the duties under the Equality Act. We make reasonable, appropriate and flexible adjustment for students with a disability. We closely monitor data on exclusions and absence from Academy for evidence of over-representation of different groups and take action promptly to address concerns.
- The Academy challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality. We treat all bullying incidents equally seriously.

What we are doing to advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- We know the needs of our pupils very well and collect and analyse data in order to inform our planning and identify targets to achieve improvements
- We have procedures, working in partnership with parents and carers, to identify children who have a disability through our admissions meetings

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- We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of pupils and use this data to support Academy improvement. We take action to close any gaps, for example, for those making slow progress in acquiring age-appropriate literacy and number skills
- We also collect, analyse and use data in relation to attendance and exclusions of different groups
- We avoid language that runs the risk of placing a ceiling on any pupils' achievement or that seeks to define their potential as learners, such as “less able”
- We use a range of teaching strategies that ensures we meet the needs of all pupils
- We provide support to pupils at risk of underachieving
- We are alert and proactive about the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender, disability and sexuality
- We ensure equality of access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum, removing barriers to participation where necessary
- We will take positive and proportionate action to address the disadvantage faced by particular groups of students with particular protected characteristics, such as targeted support. The actions will be designed to meet the Academy's Equality Objectives.

What we are doing to foster good relations

- We work closely and openly with parents / carers
- We communicate and engage with a variety of community groups including the local church
- We enable employers and other groups to work with pupils in the academy to broaden and deepen their educational experience

Links to other policies

Although this policy is the key document for information about our approach to equalities in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, we ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act are also included in other aspects of academy life such as the Academy Improvement plan, web site, newsletters and other policies e.g.

- Anti-bullying policy (pupils)
- Staff bullying and harassment policy
- Flexible working policy
- SEND policy
- Admissions policy
- Accessibility plan