

St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School
Our Whole School Equalities Policy



LEARN. INSPIRE. GROW.

OUR SCHOOL VISION:

St. Catherine's is a community where everyone is warmly welcomed, included, and has a voice. Our children thrive in an ambitious learning environment where all are nurtured, and growth is inspired by Gospel Values.

OUR SCHOOL AIMS:

- ✓ We work in partnership with our families and community to provide engaging, high quality learning experiences. **(Article 28)**
- ✓ We provide an environment in which our pupils feel safe, secure and valued. **(Article 12 / Article 19)**
- ✓ We support our pupils to be their best; to be healthy and become resilient and confident. **(Article 24)**
- ✓ We encourage our pupils to be inclusive and respectful of all. **(Article 14)**
- ✓ We nurture responsible citizenship. **(Article 29)**



OUR SCHOOL RULES:

Our School Vision and Aims focus on the school as part of the faith community. We emphasise in all of our public platforms that our Catholic school has the life and teaching of Jesus Christ as its foundation. Through the ethos of the school we will endeavour to work with the children so that they will come to know Jesus Christ as a person and a friend who guides them through life. We work towards helping each person in the school community to grow in fullness to develop, mature and fulfil their potential.

Pupils in our school will learn how to interact with other's positively, to work and play co-operatively, to share new experiences and respect each other's differences.

We aim to work with families and parish members to teach the Catholic Faith and the moral values of the gospels. We aim to nurture the children that they may grow into caring, confident, self-motivated adults.

The children will be made aware through our teachings in school that bullying is an unacceptable form of behaviour and will not be tolerated. In this way we serve them and, through them, the wider community. As a Catholic school, we work to ensure that the whole school curriculum offers role models and opportunities for children to learn how to interact with others, to share their experiences, respect each other's differences and grow into caring, confident, self-motivated adults, treating all those they meet with dignity and in a fair and just manner.

Our Catholic School community knows that inclusion and equality lead to improved outcomes for all learners.

This policy subsumes and replaces all previous policies pertaining to equality, including Equal Opportunities, Anti-Bullying and Celebrating Diversity. It applies equally, where applicable, to adults and children in school. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:
rules and regulations

Our school's own Positive Behaviour policy

City of Edinburgh Council safeguarding and child protection procedures

Legal Framework

1. St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to the nine characteristics protected in law:
 1. Age
 2. Sex
 3. Race
 4. Marriage and Civil Partnerships
 5. Pregnancy and Maternity
 6. Gender reassignment
 7. Disability
 8. Sexual Orientation
 9. Religion or belief.

In addition, we include economic disadvantage within this policy, recognising that this has one of the most significant impacts for achieving equality for all our children and young people.

2. We welcome and actively engage with the statutory requirements and codes of practice. Our staff, learners, parents and partners know what is expected in these areas and are involved in fulfilling statutory duties to improve outcomes for children and young people.

3. 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.

Our Guiding Principles

4. In fulfilling the legal obligations cited above, we are guided by nine principles:
(See appendix 1)

Principle 1: All people are made in the image and likeness of God, and are deserving of dignity and respect

Principle 2: All learners are of equal value.

Principle 3: We recognise and respect difference.

Principle 4: We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.

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

Principle 6: We aim to consult and involve widely

Principle 7: Society as a whole should benefit from our school policies.

Principle 8: We base our practices on sound evidence

Principle 9: Objectives

Our Curriculum

5. All teaching and learning within a Catholic school is rooted in the teaching of the Church. As part of our work to promote equality, we aim to ensure that within our educational provision children are offered opportunities to develop their understanding of faith in practice and to:
 - understand and celebrate diversity in all its forms.
 - learn about equality and inclusion in a variety of curriculum areas (e.g. PSE, Science, RERC, Art and English);
 - develop an understanding of global citizenship;
 - understand the power of language particularly relating to verbal abuse due to race, disability, sexual orientation or social standing;
 - develop an understanding of their rights, the rights of others, and their responsibilities to each other;
 - develop an understanding and appreciation of other religious beliefs and cultures;
 - recognise and challenge prejudice and discriminatory attitudes and behaviour;
 - develop emotionally and intellectually with the personal qualities and attributes required to make a successful life in a diverse society.

Our Ethos and Organisation

6. We ensure the principles listed in paragraph 4 above and in our school vision and aims apply to the full range of our policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- pupils' progress, attainment and achievement
- pupils' 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

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-related bullying

7. The school is opposed to all forms of prejudice, discrimination and intolerance which stand in the way of fulfilling the legal duties referred to in paragraphs 1–3:

- 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, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum
- prejudices reflecting sexism and homophobia.

8. We keep a record of prejudice-related incidents and, if requested, provide a report to the local authority about the numbers, types and seriousness of prejudice-related incidents at our school and how they are dealt with. **Appendix 4 Incident Form**

Our Roles and responsibilities

9. The City of Edinburgh Council, as the Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.

10. The Director of Education or nominated Education Officer of the City of Edinburgh Council, as the Local Authority has a watching brief regarding the implementation of this policy.

11. Our Head Teacher 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.

12. Our Senior Leadership Team are responsible for:

- coordinating equality work within staff teams
- dealing with reported incidents of racism or harassment and reporting these in detail to the Headteacher
- monitoring the progress of minority group children, including those on free school meals and from less economically affluent families
- allocating resources fairly and equitably, including recognising that some children may require more than others for an equal and fair chance to enjoy and achieve

14. All of our staff are expected to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classroom
- deal with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricula and lessons that reflect the principles in paragraph 4 above
- support pupils in their class for whom English is an additional language
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

15. Any visitors and contractors are expected to be aware of, and comply with, this as the school's equality policy and this is made clear to them using an electronic sign in system.

Other Information and Resources

16. We ensure that the content of this policy is known to all staff members and, as appropriate, to all pupils and their parents and carers.

17. All staff members have access to a selection of resources which discuss and explain concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion in appropriate detail.

Staff Development and Training

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

Breaches of the Policy

20. We will consider every breach of the policy in the light of the particular circumstances and, if pupils are involved, take into account their age and the nature of the breach. We will call on support from the Local Authority, the Police or other agencies as appropriate.

Monitoring and Review

21. We collect, study, and use quantitative and qualitative data relating to the implementation of this policy, and make adjustments as appropriate as part of a regular three-year review noted in the grid above.

22. In particular, we collect, analyse, and use data in relation to achievement, broken down as appropriate according to free school meals, disabilities, and special educational needs; ethnicity, culture, language, religious affiliation, national origin, and national status; and gender.

23. The Head Teacher, in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh Council as The Local Authority, will endeavour to ensure that all relevant policies reflect the school's commitment to the principles of equality and that this commitment is reflected clearly in all its work.

24. All policies, functions and strategies are regularly monitored, reviewed and evaluated for their effectiveness in promoting equality.

25. As further equality requirements come into force policies, functions and strategies will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated for their effectiveness in fulfilling the requirements of new legislation.

26. Outcomes of monitoring and assessment will be reported to the governing body and other key partners. Members of the school community will be kept informed of Equality and Diversity initiatives being undertaken.

29. The policy will be reviewed every three years as routine, or more often should legislation or circumstances require it. It will also form part of any new staff induction process to ensure familiarity and compliance.

Headteacher:

Paul Hunter
16.8.24

Chair of parent council:

APPENDIX 1

Principle 1: All learners are of equal value.

We see all learners and potential learners, and their parents and carers, as of equal value.

We therefore act to ensure that each and every member of the school community:

- *experiences equality of opportunity*
- *feels a full and respected member of the school community*
- *has high expectations of themselves, their peers, staff, and others with regard to fair treatment*

Principle 2: We recognise and respect difference.

Within our school community we know that treating all people equally does not necessarily mean treating them all the same.

Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless take account of differences and the kinds of barrier, and disadvantage which people may face.

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 all 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 creating a culture free from prejudice, discrimination and harassment.*

Principle 4: We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist

In addition to avoiding or minimising possible negative impacts of our policies, we take opportunities to maximise positive impacts by challenging, reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist.

Principle 5: We aim to consult and involve widely

We endeavour to engage with a range of groups and individuals to 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.

Principle 6: 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 our whole school community.

Principle 7: We base our practices on sound evidence

We maintain and publish quantitative and qualitative information showing our compliance with the public sector equality duty (PSED) set out in clause 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Principle 8: Objectives

We formulate and publish specific and measurable objectives, based on the evidence we have collected and published (principle 8) and the engagement in which we have been involved (principle 7). See Appendix 3.

The objectives which we identify take into account national and local priorities and issues, as appropriate.

We keep our equality objectives under review and report annually on progress towards achieving them.

APPENDIX 2: Good Practice Record

Do you feel any responses have been particularly effective in dealing with incidents relating to the protected characteristic?

Have any steps been taken this term to deter incidents relating to protected characteristic from occurring in the school?

Are there any issues relating to dealing with such incidents and or harassment on which you or your staff would like advice, information, or training?

Headteacher:

Date:

APPENDIX 4

NAME OF SCHOOL: ST. CATHERINE'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL BULLYING RECORD

1. School/Establishment

2. Date and time incident reported

3. Person who reported incident

Victim

Other (please specify)

4. Type of incident (please tick)

Extortion

*Personal
taken/damaged*

possessions

Isolation/Being Ignored or Left Out

Written

Physical

Spreading Rumours

*Verbal (Name-Calling, Taunting,
Mocking)*

Intimidation/coercion

Cyber (Email, Internet, Text)

Graffiti

Other (please specify)

If you feel the incident was motivated by any of the following please tick

Appearance

Racism/Ethnic Origin

Disability/SEN

Sexual Orientation

Gender/Sexism

Gender Reassignment

Faith, Religion or Belief

*Home Circumstances including
Looked After Child (LAC/CiC)*

NOTES:

Details of Young People involved

	Names	Year Group	Gender	Ethnic Code (refer to school data)	Origin (refer to census data)	Role*
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

*Role: **V** Victim **P** Perpetrator(s) **A** Associate **B** Bystander

5. Have parents/carers of victim been informed? Yes No

Have parents/carers of perpetrators been informed? Yes No

Repeat victim? Yes No

6. Brief summary of incident (including location)

7. Summary of Agreed Action (including restorative approaches and preventative work)

Record completed by Date

Signature of Designated Member of SLT

APPENDIX 5: Good Practice Guidance

		Examples from school
1	We raise awareness of issues affecting our young people and celebrate their uniqueness.	
2	We ensure that the protected characteristics feature in the curriculum and, that across a pupil's time within the school, learning and teaching on each characteristic is planned at classroom and whole school level.	
3	We know where to go and who to talk to, to be heard in a safe and supportive environment.	
4	We work with parents, carers and pupils to ensure the best support for our school community.	
5	We are sensitive to the complex and changing needs of our pupils and we work with them to ensure that they feel listened to and supported, particularly at times when they most need our help.	
6	We ensure that staff are trained to best meet the needs of our pupils. All staff know the steps to be taken to keep our pupils safe, and where to get additional support if needed.	
7	We share good practice with our cluster and within our Diocese.	
8	We use our public platforms to: share the vision, aims and values of the school, promote the positive impact that the inclusive ethos of the school has outline key information for pupils, parents and carers on accessing support and help	
9	We challenge, correct and remove language and behaviour that promotes prejudice, discrimination or intolerance of any kind. We record any instances of discrimination and bullying.	
10	We use the Charter for Catholic schools to ensure that, through Church Teaching, we promote Social justice and opportunity for all.	

APPENDIX 6: Practical Strategies

IF YOU ARE BULLIED - TELL SOMEONE

Tell a school friend, brother, sister or a parent. Talk to your class teacher, another adult or talk to someone at home.

STRATEGIES FOR ANTI-BULLYING CULTURE.

The staff are responsible for delivering the anti-bullying message and reinforcing it regularly. Through our Catholic ethos and RE lessons, through assemblies, Religious Observance and personal and social education, the staff will create opportunities for expressing feelings and resolving conflicts.

Classroom practice and curriculum will be used positively as a vehicle. The implementation of the policy demands sound cooperation between staff, pupils and parents. Teachers should not accept false excuses: If the bullying was an accident, did the children act by helping the victim or getting help or sympathy? If it was just a laugh, was everyone laughing? If it was a game, was everyone enjoying it?

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Make sure that children are actively encouraged to talk about bullying not only in the classroom but on an individual basis. Parents must tell the child that in order for the bullying to stop you have to get help from the Head teacher or someone else at the school. Bullied children often feel completely helpless and it is important to help them regain control and take responsibility, with adult support, for what happens next.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING STAFF

Teachers need to: To be prepared to find time to listen to children and take them seriously in a way which will not lead to their being humiliated or embarrassed by ensuring privacy.

To look out for possible bullying behaviour and be aware of bully hot spots.

To establish routine opportunities for children to talk about bullying.

To include teaching about positive behaviour through the curriculum.

To make clear the limits of acceptable behaviour.

To implement the rewards and the sanctions as quickly as possible.

To recognise that we as teachers sometimes need help and to seek it if appropriate.

To examine our own behaviour to make sure we are not bullying pupils, colleagues or parents.

To make sure everything we do gives the message "BULLYING IS NOT OK".

To encourage collective responsibility for ownership of a problem.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PUPILS

Pupils need to: Trust staff to take action if being bullied. Be aware of rewards and sanctions and understand that their actions will have consequences. Tell staff they are being bullied or inform about a friend being bullied. Not stand by and do nothing or laugh when bullying is taking place. Try to be helpful and kind to other people at all times. Accept sanctions if found bullying.

APPENDIX 7 : Practical Strategies for parents and carers

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT BULLYING IN OUR SCHOOL? INVOLVING PARENTS & CARERS

Parents need to: Contact school if they are aware or suspect bullying is taking place. Encourage children NOT to be aggressive with other people. Support the school if further action needs to be taken.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council need to: Make sure they understand and know about the bullying policy. Support staff in implementing the policy. Take an active role in the review and maintenance of the policy.

SOME ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE TO YOUR CHILD IF YOU KNOW OR SUSPECT HE OR SHE IS BEING BULLIED

Tell your child the following:

- That adults, particularly those in school, and parents take bullying very seriously and are prepared to do something about it.
- That bullies will be dealt with seriously and that it is much better to talk to an adult than to suffer in silence.
- Keep your child informed of all action you take to stop bullying.
- That she/he does not deserve to be bullied.
- That if she/he is different in some way, race, religion, hair colour, wears glasses, is plump, thin, tall or short, he/she should be proud of it. It is good to be an individual.
- If they are bullied, tell an adult, teacher, dinner lady, any trusted adult.
- Most adults will be sympathetic and will try to protect the child.
- Most of all they can tell you and you will do something about it.
- Not to fight back.
- Never be forced to fight a bully.
- If they are in danger from a bully or bullies, get away, give them any possessions they want.
- Find a trusted adult and tell them what happened and what was taken away.
- Do not delay telling
- Get your friends together and say NO to the bully.
- Stay with groups of people, even if they are not your friends. There is safety in numbers.
- If possible, avoid being alone in places where bullying happens.
- Walk quickly and confidently even if you do not feel that way inside. Try being assertive - shout "NO!" loudly. Practise in front of a mirror. Try not to show you are upset, which is difficult.

Appendix 8: COMPLAINTS SYSTEM FOR BULLYING

As a school community we hope that through our learning and teaching about respect, tolerance and the dignity of each person, there are few incidents of bullying.

However, when an incident does take place, all of the school community (adults and children) should know what to do and what process will follow.

1. All concerned teachers and parents need to be informed of how and when the complaint will be investigated.

A) The bullies will be interviewed both separately and together;

B) That the victim and anyone else who witnessed the incident will be interviewed;

C) That whatever the outcome of the investigations all parties will be left in no doubt as to the effects of bullying and reminded of the school's policy;

2. Parents of both bullies and victims will be informed in interview/meeting of the outcome of the investigations and of any immediate sanctions or threatened sanctions should there be a recurrence.

3. Victims will need a guarantee that any repercussions will lead to the immediate imposition of the agreed sanctions.

4. Should the complaint not be satisfactorily dealt with, then parents and victims should be informed of the general complaint's procedures.

Appendix 9: School Statement on Anti - Bullying

Central to the life of the school are the values of the Gospel. These permeate all aspects of school life. The children grow to recognise that every person is unique, made in God's images and likeness. God's message of love, tolerance and respect for the individual is reinforced within our teaching and is central to collective acts of worship. Pupils are very aware of their responsibilities to each other and the need to help make our school bully free and not to tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards another person. Every child has a right to be safe and happy in school and not to have their education spoiled by other children's bullying behaviour.

All children deserve to receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. Every person who is a part of our School has a responsibility to take actions to care for each other.

Children can be victims of bullies for many reasons, but it is often because they are different in some way in terms of racial origin, gender, social class, sexual orientation, learning disabilities, size and so on.

Any form of bullying, physical, emotional or mental hurt relating to these, or other issues, will not be tolerated. It is detrimental to the ethos of our school and therefore against everything we are working towards.

We have a whole school approach to bullying. Through our Catholic school, ethos, RE lessons, assemblies, curriculum areas including P.S.E. we will identify and address these issues.