



## **St Stephen's Tockholes Church of England Primary School Equality Policy**

### **School Context**

St Stephen's Tockholes is a voluntary aided Church of England Primary School, situated near in rural surroundings on the Darwen border. The school is a small school with an admission number of 10 pupils per year. Pupils are grouped vertically by Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stages Two

As a small yet unique part of God's Big family, we will inspire and nurture all to become the very best they can be. Opening up the world, we will celebrate our Father's (God's) wondrous, diverse creation. We will all live, love, laugh and learn in the light of Christ.

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', Philippians 4: 13

### **School Statement**

We believe that all people are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and are unconditionally loved by God. We believe that everyone is equal in the sight of God because we recognise that none of us can live up to the "holiness" of God.

As a result we treat each other with dignity and respect striving to live lives that reflect our Christian values of Compassion, Community, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope and Humility.

#### **Hope – Ephesians 1v18**

To create a community where hope is firmly rooted in the fullness of God, where each individual can fulfil their true potential.

#### **Forgiveness – Colossians 3 v13**

To encourage respect, understanding for and forgiveness of each other.

### **Compassion – 1 Peter 3 v8**

To inspire children to show compassion for others within school and in local and global communities.

### **Community - 1 Corinthians 1:10**

To strengthen links with the local community and Church.  
To develop an inclusive community where all are included and all are valued.

### **Friendship – John 15 v12-14**

To equip children to develop socially and emotionally; having due regard for other peoples' feeling and situations. Developing empathy, resilience and self-confidence.

### **Humility 1 Peter v5 6-7**

To inspire empathy and compassion, putting the needs of others before themselves.

## **School Statement on Equality**

In line with the Diocesan Vision and Church of England Vision for Education, which specifically talks of the need to build community and promote dignity, this school seeks equality in all it does. Every person in our school community has been made in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and is loved unconditionally by God. Everyone is equal in the sight of God and therefore we seek to love one another as Jesus loved others. Our school is a place where we seek to serve others and all in their unique difference can able to thrive.

We are committed to promoting the understanding of the principles and practices of equality – treating all members of our school community as individuals, according to their needs, with an awareness of our diverse society and appreciating the value of difference. We actively seek to challenge discrimination and we promote an anti-bullying stance which makes clear the unacceptability of discrimination and draws on advice issued in the Valuing All God's Children report (Autumn 2017)

### **1. Legal framework**

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to protected characteristics listed in the act.

We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.

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.

### **2. Guiding principles**

Over Millennia Christian faith has pioneered equality as Jesus was radical in His welcome of all. So our approach to equality is based on the following key principles:

**Everyone is equal, as we are known and loved by God unconditionally.**

We see all members of our school community as equal and have due regard to the protected characteristics of:

- age
- disability
- ethnicity, culture, national origin or national status
- marriage and civil partnership
- gender or gender identity
- religion or belief
- sexual identity
- pregnancy and maternity

**We recognise and respect difference.**

Treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them all the same. Our policies, procedures and activities must not discriminate but must nevertheless 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 protected characteristics.

**We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development.**

We ensure that policies and procedures should benefit all employees and potential employees, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development. We recognise that certain roles in school will have genuine occupational requirement (GOR) for the post holder to be a practising Christian and ensure effective assessments of each role are carried out to establish whether a GOR applies.

**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 reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist

**Society as a whole should benefit.**

We intend that our policies and activities should foster greater social cohesion and greater participation in public life of those with protected characteristics.

**Objectives**

The school uses the School improvement planning process to set objectives for all aspects of school life. These objectives are set having due regard to this policy

**3. Development of the policy**

This policy is based on the model policy created by Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

**4. Links to other policies and documentation**

We ensure that the principles listed above apply to all of our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' progress, attainment and achievement
- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- Teaching styles and strategies
- SMSC and PSHE
- Admissions and attendance

- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Special educational needs
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Bullying and addressing prejudice related bullying
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act are included in our school development plan, self-evaluation review, the school prospectus, school web site and newsletters.

## 5. Our actions

We follow Jesus' radical action of challenging injustice, discrimination, harassment and victimisation by:

- Ensuring that the School's Christian values of Wisdom, Hope, Friendship, Compassion, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, rooted firmly in Agape, Love, underpin all we do
- Ensuring that the Christian ethos of the school drives positive relationships
- Implementing policies that challenge prejudicial behaviours and promote equalities, especially in relation to bullying
- Reviewing the services and facilities of the school to ensure they allow access by all people
- Designing a curriculum that promotes equality and raises awareness of the protected characteristics

We follow Jesus' radical action of welcome by advancing equality of opportunity between different groups and meet our legal duty by:

- Implementing policies and practices that promote equality
- Monitoring all aspects of our work to identify any potential inequalities
- Being alert to the potential impact of any negative, prejudicial language or behaviour on particular pupils and groups of pupils.

We follow Jesus' radical action of universal and unconditional love to promote good relations by:

- Encouraging listening to one another's views
- Ensuring that our policies, procedures and activities promote equality
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards those with protected characteristics
- Encouraging respectful debate on matters where there may be differences in religious belief and practice
- Encouraging good relations and dialogue between groups and communities different from each other in terms of ethnicity, culture, religious affiliation, national origin or national status
- Encouraging mutual respect and good relations between genders
- Strongly challenging any discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of the protected characteristics.

## **6. Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy together with our vision and Christian values are known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented.

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.

All 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 above
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

Pupils are expected to positively engage with each other and to live out the Christian ethos of the school.

Parents, carers and visitors will be informed of the school's policies and procedures with regard to equalities and are expected to be active partners in supporting the school.

## **8. Staff development and training**

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

## **9. Breaches of the policy**

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

## **10. Monitoring and evaluation**

We collect, study and use quantitative and qualitative data relating to the implementation of this policy, and make adjustments as appropriate.

In particular we collect, analyse and use data in relation to the admissions, pupil achievement, behaviour and attendance of pupils in the following subgroups:

- Gender

- SEND
- Ethnicity
- National origin
- Disadvantaged

**Reviewed January 2026**

**To be taken to Governors February 2026**