

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School



Public Sector Equality Policy

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“Sowing the seeds for the future”

What is the PSED?

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a single, general duty for public bodies, including schools, and which extends to all ‘protected characteristics’ – race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

There are three main elements within the act and in carrying out our functions, as a school, we must have regard for the need to:

1. Eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the act.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

It should be noted that age is a relevant characteristic for schools when considering their duties as an employer but not in relation to pupils. The PSED replaces the previous three sets of separate duties to promote disability, race and gender equality. All schools must have ‘due regard’ to the three elements. Therefore whenever significant decisions are being made, or policies being developed or reviewed, the school will consider carefully the equalities implications.

How does Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School comply with the PSED?

The school has a range of policies which make explicit the school's long established commitment to actively promoting equality of opportunity for all. The main policies dealing with equality of opportunity are:

Equality policy

SEN and Inclusion Policy

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy

Accessibility Plan

Examples of practice which advances equality of opportunity:

Where necessary, we use the services of outside agencies to support families and individual pupils. We have our own school based Parent Support Advisor who supports our most vulnerable pupils and families. Pupils with SEN, including those with medical needs, are fully supported by our SENCo, Teaching Assistants and external specialist professionals.

We have excellent links with the local children's centre and the local high school, which ensures that transition into Reception and Year 7 runs smoothly.

We use the services of the Sefton Safeguarding Team and Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for pupils who need this type of expert support.

Our More Able, Gifted and Talented pupils are effectively identified and their learning is provided for through targetted support. We select individuals for courses, duties and involvement in appropriate activities that will use and extend their abilities, gifts and talents.

3. Foster good relations

The school adopts a wide range of approaches to foster good relations. Some specific examples are as follows:

The school participates in fund raising for many charities supporting local, national and global issues, which are understood and supported by children.

The strong global dimension of our curriculum develops our pupils' awareness of different countries and cultures.

During our Archdiocesan inspection, it was recognised that at this school we understand differences and value diverse experiences " This helps to promote tolerance and respect for those who think differently." The impact of this is a school where every person feels valued, respected and safe.

All governors demonstrate a high level of engagement with the school in areas such as health and safety, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development, SEN and equality. They concern themselves with the inclusive nature of our school, the well-being of staff and pupils and with attendance and behaviour.

Our partnership with local schools is an integral part of our school provision. Through this partnership our children have access to a range of activities and competitions that span the curriculum. They are able to interact with pupils from other schools, visit other schools and bring the impact of this, back into their own classrooms.

We are very proud of our extended services offered in the form of a wide variety of teacher run clubs which are outside of the school day and free of charge. The impact of this is that children experience enrichments to the basic curriculum. These clubs are popular and very well attended.

Our Equality Objectives

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) the school is required to set Equality Objectives. Our published information must be updated annually and objectives published at least once every four years.

Objective 1: To narrow the gap between the progress made by 'all' children and that made by 'groups' of children such as those eligible for the Pupil Premium.

Objective 2: To ensure that future reviews of all school policies include information about, and links to, PSED. In order to eliminate discrimination all school policies will be reviewed and revised to ensure that where relevant the importance of avoiding discrimination, victimisation or harassment is expressly noted.

Objective 3: To ensure that staff induction includes raising awareness of, and staff understanding their responsibilities under, the Equality Act.

Objective 4: To continue the high standards of SMSC aspects of school life.