



# Equality Policy

The Governing Body of Elvington CE Primary School endeavours to write and adopt policies that are fully inclusive for all children / staff / parents / carers / Governors and members of the wider community.

Policy approved by Governors:	2021
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Date for renewal:	2023





# Elvington Church of England Primary School



## **Rationale:**

This Equality Policy for Elvington Church of England Primary School brings together all previous policies, schemes and action plans around equality including those that we had previously for Race, Gender and Disability. It includes all the protected characteristics covered under the Equality Act 2010 as well as other aspects which have the potential to discriminate against or to devalue any individuals within our community. We are further committed to the development of cohesive communities both within our school's physical boundaries and within our local, national and global environments. Our school embraces the aim of working together with others to improve children's educational and wellbeing outcomes, and notes the rights set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our Equality Policy is inclusive of our whole school community – pupils/students, staff, parents/carers, visitors and partner agencies – who we have engaged with and who have been actively involved in and contributed to its development.

The purpose of this Policy is to set out how our practice and policies have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity and
- foster good relations between groups.

It explains how we aim to listen to and involve pupils, staff, parents and the community in achieving better outcomes for our children and young people.

## **Our school within the wider context**

The national demographic presents an ever-changing picture in terms of age, ethnicity, disability and social deprivation.

Elvington Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School, catering for children aged between 4 and 11, situated on the eastern side of York. There are approximately 130 pupils on roll, with the majority of pupils coming from the village of Elvington, with a smaller minority coming from other rural villages. The school's admission limit is 20. Pupils are taught in mixed-aged classes (with the exception of the current Year 6 cohort).

## **Overall aims of our Equality Policy**

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- To promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community.
- To promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities and ethnic origins.



# Elvington Church of England Primary School



## Our approach

We seek to embed equality of access, opportunity and outcome for all members of our school community, within all aspects of school life.

## We actively seek out opportunities to embrace the following key concepts:

- Shared Humanity.

Identifying commonality and shared values, aspirations and needs underpins our approach to equality. We value our fundamental similarities and universality

- Valuing difference and diversity.

We appreciate the richness within our differences and look for ways of celebrating and understanding them better

- Interdependence, interaction and influence.

We recognise that, as they evolve, distinct cultures, beliefs and lifestyles will impact on and inform each other

- Social cohesion within our school and within our local community
- Personal and cultural identity.

We will provide opportunities to explore and value the complexity of our personal and cultural identities

- Fairness and social justice.

We will develop our understanding of the inequality that exists in society and explore ways of individually and collectively promoting a more equitable society.

## Our vision statement about Equality

Elvington seeks to foster warm, welcoming and respectful environments, which allow us to question and challenge discrimination and inequality, resolve conflicts peacefully and work and learn free from harassment and violence.

We recognise that there are similarities and differences between individuals and groups but we will strive to ensure that our differences do not become barriers to participation, access and learning and to create inclusive processes and practices, where the varying needs of individuals and groups are identified and met. We therefore cannot achieve equality for all by treating everyone the same.

We will build on our similarities and seek enrichment from our differences and so promote understanding and learning between and towards others to create cohesive communities.

## Our duties

We recognise and accept our equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010.



# Elvington Church of England Primary School



## **Roles and responsibilities within our school community**

Our Headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff, parents/carers, pupils/students and visitors and contractors are engaged in the development of and informed about the Equality Policy.
- Oversee the effective implementation of the policy ensure staff have access to training which helps to implement the policy.
- Develop partnerships with external agencies regarding the policy so that the school's actions are in line with the best advice available.
- Monitor the policy and report to the Governing Body at least annually on the effectiveness of the policy.

### **Our Governing Body will:**

- Designate a committee with specific responsibility for the Equality Policy
- Ensure that the objectives arising from the policy are part of the School Development Plan when necessary (SDP).
- Support the Headteacher in implementing any actions necessary.
- Engage with parents and partner agencies about the policy.
- Evaluate and review the policy annually.

### **Our pupils/students will:**

- Be involved in the development of the Policy and will understand how it relates to them, appropriate to age and ability
- Be expected to act in accordance with the Policy
- Be encouraged to actively support the Policy

### **Our parents/carers will:**

- Be given accessible opportunities to become involved in the development of the Policy
- Have access to the Policy through a range of different media appropriate to their requirements.
- Be encouraged to actively support the Policy
- Be encouraged to attend any relevant meetings and activities related to the Policy
- Be informed of any incident related to this Policy which could directly affect their child

### **Our school staff will:**

- Be involved in the development of the Policy
- Be fully aware of the Equality Policy and how it relates to them
- Understand that this is a whole school issue and support the Equality Policy
- Make known any queries or training requirements



# Elvington Church of England Primary School



## **Our Staff**

We comply fully with legislation which protects our staff (including teachers, teaching assistants, supervisors and student teachers) from discrimination based on the protected characteristics. With regard to disability, we make such reasonable adjustments as are necessary to prevent a disabled person being at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with people who are not disabled.

This includes discrimination in relation to recruitment, terms and conditions, promotions, transfers, dismissals, training and employment practices (such as dress codes) and disciplinary procedures. We make efforts to ensure that the diversity of our workforce reflects that of our local community and wider society. In accordance with the Equality Act we do not enquire about the health of an applicant until a job offer has been made<sup>6</sup> or require job applicants to complete a generic 'all encompassing' health questionnaire as part of the application procedure.

We will ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and take seriously and act on incidents of harassment and discrimination recognising that our staff may be either victims or perpetrators.

## **Responding to prejudice based incidents:**

We interpret our duties positively; take the necessary actions to remove barriers to inclusion and work hard to ensure a safe, positive and inclusive environment.

We recognise that hate incidents or prejudice – based bullying behaviour is driven by negative assumptions, stereotypes or misinformation. These are then directed against an individual or group, based on difference (real or perceived), and linked to, for example, racism, homophobia, negative views of disabled people or sexism. We will take action to prevent, challenge and eliminate any such behaviour.

We recognise that we as individuals and society often struggle with difference of any kind (perceived or actual), which can result in seizing upon the most visible sign of difference e.g. skin colour or disability.

Through our school ethos and curriculum, we want our pupils/students to understand better the diversity that exists in society. We want to provide opportunities for them to explore the subtleties and complexities in order to prevent and respond to incidents and situations. We will address the experience, understanding and needs of the victim, the perpetrator, bystanders and the wider school community through our actions and responses.



## Elvington Church of England Primary School



We will record all hate incidents and prejudice based bullying. We will use this information to identify trends and patterns, so that we have approaches in place to provide appropriate responses in terms of support for victims and their families, sanctions and support for perpetrators and their families and education for our children, young people and communities.

### Equality Objectives 2021-2023

**Objective 1:** *To further promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities, with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity*

We have chosen this objective because there is very little ethnic diversity within our school community. We feel that it is very important that our pupils gain and appreciate a broader cultural perspective and what makes a fair and equitable society.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Specifically plan for opportunities across school, and continue to build on knowledge, where we can support our pupils to gain and appreciate a broader cultural perspective.

**Objective 2:** *To increase the number of disadvantaged children attaining combined ARE and the higher standard of attainment.*

We have chosen this objective because compared to other children nationally the number of disadvantaged children achieving combined ARE can fluctuate.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Please see our Pupil Premium Strategy

**Objective 3:** *Increase the amount of extra-curricular activities available for Key Stage One Children.*

We have chosen this objective because a lot of our extra-curricular activities are for older children and parents and children have expressed a need for more activities for younger children. We also recognize the benefits of this to early development.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Offer more extra-curricular activities for EYFS and Key Stage One children.