

# Stepney All Saints School

We Learn Together | We Pray Together | We Achieve Together



## **Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy**

**Committee Review:** P&C

**Ratified by Governors:** March 2024

**To be reviewed:** March 2028

**SLT Responsible:** S Begum

## **Introduction**

This policy describes the way Stepney All Saints School will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This Act replaced all previous equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act. The policy will be applied to all staff, students, Governors as well as any volunteers working in the school.

## **Policy Access**

Employees, students, Governors and volunteers working in the school are made aware of the existence of this policy and where it can be accessed. A copy of the policy will can be found on the shared common area in the policies folder and on the school website.

This policy is reviewed every four years.

## **Policy Statement**

Stepney All Saints School will adhere to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), by not discriminating against staff, students, Governors, volunteers working in the school or anyone involved in external agencies the organisation may be working with on the grounds of:

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

In addition, there will be no discrimination against:

- learners due to the behaviour of their parents and/or siblings

Our school will ensure due regard to the needs of all people in these groups when developing policy and strategy. All individuals with any of the 'protected characteristics' will be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

## **Aims:**

It is the school's aim to value each member of its community as an individual, irrespective of class, culture, physical or intellectual differences, gender, age, disability, language, race, religion / belief, marital status, sexual orientation or in relation to pregnancy and maternity.

The school seeks to promote tolerance and understanding of others within the school and the wider community. All students should start in this school with an equal opportunity for success and the school will seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

Stepney All Saints School will:

- ensure that the services it provides are accessible to all and endeavour to positively encourage and benefit people from disadvantaged groups
- monitor any issues that arise within the organisation and take appropriate action, fully supporting any person in the organisation who is faced with prejudice or discrimination

- treat seriously any breaches of the policy, regarding them as misconduct which may lead to disciplinary proceedings

## **Strategies:**

### **Curriculum**

All departments in the school must recognise the positive influence that can be exerted through a diverse curriculum. The school is constantly exploring ways in which it can help to raise the awareness and understanding of equality issues. As a school we employ staff from a variety of backgrounds in all curriculum areas and encourage a positive representation of each subject for all students. Each student should have an entitlement of equal access to all subjects in the curriculum.

### **Teaching and Support Staff**

Each member of staff, both teaching and support staff, has a duty to address equal opportunity issues. This includes in the classroom, the corridors, the playground or outside of the school environment. All staff should deal with low level incidents immediately. There is an expectation that all incidents should be written up and recorded on the school's management information system (MIS).

### **Monitoring**

The school will collect, study and use data relating to the implementation of this policy, making adjustments as appropriate.

The school will record all incidents relating to equal opportunity issues. We will monitor the students excluded (Fixed Term and Permanent) or placed in the Stepney Learning Centre and where necessary the school will provide resources to target additional support.

The school will monitor the progress and achievement of all student groups. Data will be analysed as well as outcomes from learning observations and learning reviews in order to ensure that all student groups achieve high standards.

### **The School Community**

We believe that everyone in our community has the right to live, learn and work in a safe and secure environment. We all have a responsibility to combat any expression of prejudice or intolerance by persons in the school and to assist our students to grow and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards other people. We will not accept verbal abuse, graffiti, provocative comments or literature, styles of dress and modes of behaviour associated with all forms of prejudice. Failure to comply with these guidelines can lead, ultimately, to exclusion.

We expect our students to promote this policy in their behaviour in and out of school as embodied in The All Saints Way. We expect and rely on the support of parents/carers in implementing this policy; we recognise that success in this area largely depends on their co-operation.

### **The School Governing Body**

The school's Governing Body is actively committed to promoting equality and diversity and must provide leadership in equality and diversity across all protected characteristics.

The school's Governing Body is also actively committed to Equality and Diversity in its own membership and will observe and take full account of the school's Equality and Diversity statement in appointing school governors.

### **Complaints Procedure**

#### **What to do?**

If a member of the school community is being harassed or bullied, or feels that someone else is, they

should report the matter in the case of students to their Form Tutor, Head of Year or any member of the school staff. All incidents will be investigated, followed up and recorded. Staff should seek support from their line manager as appropriate or advice from their union representative.

**Sanctions:**

Any member of the school community who demonstrates behaviour that runs counter to our Equal Opportunities and Diversity policy will be subject to the school disciplinary procedures. Any Governing Body members who demonstrate behaviour that runs counter to the policy will be subject to the rules contained within the Governors Code of Conduct.