



Equal Opportunities Policy Information and Objectives

Approved by:	Board of Directors	Date: 17/07/2024
Last reviewed:	17/05/2023	
Next review due by:	Policy- July 2025 Objectives-May 2026	

Information and Objectives

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1. Aims

Our Trust aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Our Trust aims to promote respect for difference and diversity in accordance with our values;

Ambitious- always have high expectations and aspirations for everyone; learning from the best and having an optimistic outlook

Empowering- believing and investing in our people; developing talent and potential; celebrating diversity and individuality: working collaboratively and celebrating achievement

Ethical- doing what is right and challenging what is wrong; showing kindness and compassion; promoting wellbeing and sustainability

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination

- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require schools to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on Department for Education (DfE) advice for schools on the Equality Act, the technical guidance for schools from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and guidance from the Government Equalities Office on meeting the specific duties that support the public sector equality duty.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Directors

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the Trust, including to staff, pupils and parents
- Ensure that the published equality information is updated at least every year, and that the objectives are reviewed and updated at least every 4 years
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the Trust SLT and headteachers

The Headteacher

The Headteacher will, for their school:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors

All staff across the Trust

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

4. Eliminating discrimination

The Trust is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training annually. This is via our online learning platform.

Directors, governors and staff are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings and Trust newsletter.

5. Advancing equality of opportunity

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the school aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have.
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic.
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities

Publishing information about pupils

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty, each Trust school will:

- Collect attainment data each academic year showing how pupils with different characteristics are performing
- Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups
- Collect further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

Relevant information about each school will be published on their individual websites.

Publishing information about staff

In addition to the information about pupils, we will consider how our activities as an employer affect staff with protected characteristics. As a Trust, we will publish information to show:

- The make-up of our workforce, with breakdowns of staff with different protected characteristics
- Gender pay-gap reporting and other pay equality issues
- Recruitment and retention rates for staff with different protected characteristics
- Applications for flexible working and their outcomes for staff with different protected characteristics
- Applications for learning and development opportunities and their outcomes for staff with different protected characteristics
- Grievances and disciplinary issues for staff with different protected characteristics
- Policies and programmes in place to address equality concerns from staff
- Information from staff surveys

We will make sure that with any data we publish to show how we meet our equality duties, individual staff or pupils will not be identifiable. This means we may suppress some data if it relates to a very small number of staff or pupils to preserve their confidentiality.

6. Fostering good relations

The Trust aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting tolerance, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of our curriculum. This includes teaching in RE, philosophy and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English/reading, pupils will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies and we will also invite external speakers to contribute
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies, and organising school trips and activities based around the local community
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of pupils within the school. For example, our school council has representatives from different year groups and is formed of pupils from a range of backgrounds. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the school's activities, such as sports clubs. We also work with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures.
- We have developed links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

7. Equality considerations in decision-making

The Trust ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

In all of our schools, we will always consider the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned, the school considers whether the trip:

- Is accessible to pupils with disabilities
- Has equivalent facilities for all pupils irrespective of their gender
- Cuts across any religious holidays

8. Equality objectives

Objective 1: Trust objective- *Undertake an analysis of recruitment data and trends with regard to race, gender and disability.*

Why we have chosen this objective:

So that we can identify any significant differences between particular characteristics and the

various roles that groups have applied for during the academic year.

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Collate and analyse the data that we hold in our information management system and report on our findings.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

Ensuring that all data that pertains to the protected characteristics throughout the recruitment process is accessible and securely stored.

Objective 2: Trust objective- *Train all members of staff and governors and Directors involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by the beginning of the next academic year. Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements.*

Why we have chosen this objective:

To ensure that our recruitment panels hold the appropriate knowledge and skills to support the recruitment process. Our Trust aims to ensure that no job applicant suffers discrimination because of any of the protected characteristics and that individuals are treated on the basis of their relevant skills and abilities.

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

Provide and undertake equality and diversity training either on the Trust's online learning platform or through face-to-face training.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

At least one member of any shortlisting and interview panel has undertaken equality and diversity training.

Objective 3: School specific objective- Actively close gaps in attainment and achievement between students for all groups of students; especially students eligible for Pupil Premium, students with special educational needs and disabilities, looked after children and students from minority ethnic groups.

Why we have chosen this objective:

St Meriadoc Infant Academy has significantly above the National Average number of pupils that are entitled to Pupil Premium. We also have higher than National numbers of pupils with SEND. 71% of our pupils live in the most deprived areas in England. We strongly believe that reaching your potential is not about where you come from, but instead about developing the necessary skills and values required to succeed.

To achieve this objective, we plan to:

We are determined to provide the support and guidance they need to help them overcome their barriers and leading full and active lives. All staff at St Meriadoc CofE Infant Academy are committed to ensuring that all of our disadvantaged pupils, regardless of ability, receive teaching that is at least good in every lesson and that disadvantaged children who have fallen behind their peers with similar starting points, receive frequent intervention and daily support. We encourage all of our children to take part in our wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer.

Progress we are making towards this objective:

- Family liaison Officer employed who supports both children and families
- Nurture/TIS intervention to support children's Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues.
- Offer children a wide range of trips and visits including residential.
- Our curriculum celebrates diversity through Black History Month and learning about others cultures and religions.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The Board of Directors have delegated the updating of the equality information we publish, such as the gender pay gap analysis, at least every year, to the Senior Leadership Team.

The Board of Directors have delegated the updating of the equality objectives, at least every 4 years, to the Senior Leadership Team.

10. Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Equality and Diversity- Employee policy
- Accessibility plan
- Safer recruitment