



The Federation of the Church Schools of
Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth
Together for a Brighter Future

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

(SINGLE EQUALITIES POLICY)

Date Review: Spring 2025

Review Date: Spring 2026

Annual Review of Equality Objectives: Spring

Reviewed by: HT & FGB

Chair of Governors: Carla Bradshaw

Signed:

Version History		
Version	Date	Description
V1.1	Spring 2023	Policy reviewed and updated
V1.2	Spring 2024	Objectives reviewed
V1.3	Spring 2025	Objectives reviewed

1 Document Information

Title:	Single Equalities Policy (replaces previous race, disability, gender equality policies)
Status:	Reviewed following legal updates and review of equality objectives
Current Version:	11
Author:	Admin Officer
Sponsor:	Mrs Elizabeth Grainger, Headteacher The Federation of the Church Schools of Freshwater & Yarmouth and Shalfleet (01983) 760345 (Freshwater & Yarmouth) (01983) 760269 (Shalfleet)
Consultation:	Governing Board
Approved by:	Governing Board
Approval Date:	
Review Frequency:	Annual review of equality objectives
Next Review:	Policy – Spring 2026

Version History		
Version	Date	Description
1	Spring 2012	Draft for approval
2	Spring 2013	Review following legal updates and review of equality objectives
3	Spring 2014	Equality Objectives Review
4	Spring 2016	Equality Objectives Review
5	Spring 2017	Equality Objectives Review
6	Spring 2018	Equality Objectives Review
7	Spring 2019	Equality Objectives Review
8	Spring 2020	4 yearly review and development of equality objectives
9	Spring 2021	Annual review of equality objectives progress and review
10	Spring 2025	Annual review of equality objectives progress and review

Contents

1	Document Information.....	3
	Contents.....	4
2	Statement / principles.....	5
2.1	Monitoring and review.....	6
2.2	Equality Act 2010 update.....	7
2.3	Promoting equality: Curriculum.....	8
2.4	Promoting equality: Achievement.....	9
2.5	Promoting equality: Ethos and culture.....	9
2.6	Promoting equality: Staff recruitment and professional development.....	9
2.7	Promoting equality: Countering and challenging harassment and bullying.....	10
2.8	Promoting equality: Partnerships with parents/carers and the wider	
2.9	The Governing Board has a responsibility for ensuring that.....	10
2.10	The headteacher and senior leadership has a responsibility for.....	11
2.11	All school staff have responsibility for.....	11
2.12	Measuring the impact of the policy.....	11
3	Related Documents.....	15
4	Appendix.....	16
4.1	Glossary of Terms.....	16

2 Statement / principles

The policy outlines the commitment of the staff and Governors to promote equality. This involves tackling the barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for identified groups and individuals of pupils, staff, parents/carers, governors and visitors in school, ensuring that there is equality of access to education whilst at the same time celebrating and valuing the diversity of our community.

We believe that equality should filter through all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the Federation of the Church Schools of Freshwater & Yarmouth and Shalfleet and wider communities. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

Within our school, equality is a key principle for treating people with dignity and respect irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race including caste, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation as recognised protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Mission Statement:

We value and respect everyone within an atmosphere of Christian love. Our welcoming community builds strong relationships and is dedicated to supporting everyone to flourish academically, emotionally, socially and culturally through an excellent and engaging curriculum.



‘Encourage one another and give each other strength’ Thessalonians 5:11

- **Inclusivity** – Everyone is welcome
- **Respect** – Everyone is valued
- **Resilience** – Everyone is encouraged
- **Relationships** – Everyone belongs

Legal duties:

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to:

- **Eliminate** discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- **Promote** equality of opportunity to all
- **Foster** good relations between the whole school community

In fulfilling our legal duties we will ensure irrespective of a persons protected characteristic that we will:

- Ensure that all learners and potential learners are treated with equal value
- Provide access to education or employment at our school are pupils and staff are treated with dignity and respect
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
- Be an inclusive and equal opportunities employer with regard to recruitment, retention and CPD opportunities
- Ensure that we welcoming and supportive of the local community

This policy has been drawn up as a result of discussion between different stakeholders.

2.1 Monitoring and review

The responsibility for co-ordinating the monitoring and evaluation of this policy, is the headteacher, the governing board with the support and guidance from the lead officer for equality and diversity, they are responsible for:

- Providing updates on equalities legislation and the schools responsibilities in this regard;
- Working closely with the nominated governor responsible for equality and diversity
- Supporting positively the evaluation of activities that monitor the impact and success of the policy on all groups, including Special Educational Needs (SEN), Children in Care, Minority Ethnic including traveller and English as an Additional Language (EAL) students and Free School Meals, in the following recommended areas:
 - Pupils' progress and attainment
 - Teaching and learning
 - Behaviour discipline and exclusions
 - Attendance
 - Admissions

-
- All forms of bullying including incidents of prejudice related bullying
 - Parental involvement
 - Participation in extra-curricular and extended school activities
 - Staff recruitment and retention
 - Visits and visitors

2.2 Equality Act 2010 update:

School Uniform Policy: There are recognised benefits in having a school uniform, as a uniform can: instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; contribute towards the ethos of a school; help to ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; nurture cohesion; and promote good relations between different group of pupils.

The law: Under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 schools must not discriminate on grounds of age, sex, gender reassignment, race, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief or sexual orientation. The leading cases challenging uniform policies have tended to focus on racial or religious matters.

Unlawful discrimination can be direct, where the school treats a pupil differently from other pupils on the prohibited grounds, or indirect, where all pupils are treated equally but the effect of that treatment is different on, for example, different racial or religious groups.

What does this mean for the Federation of the Church Schools of Freshwater & Yarmouth and Shalfleet?

In light of the case law in this area and the obligations under the Equality Act 2010, we should consider the following points:

- whether an exception to the school uniform policy applies in specific cases, such as to accommodate a pupil's disability or injury;
- to take care to ensure that the uniform policy does not discourage parents from certain social groups from applying for a place at the school for their child. For example, to avoid disadvantage to any racial groups. Our Uniform Policy will take into account specific differences in dress, hairstyle and even the significance of certain items of jewellery for pupils from different racial backgrounds;
- in some circumstances it may be appropriate to allow an exception to the policy to be made for a particular pupil. If an exception cannot be made, and would put a pupil at

a disadvantage, consider whether the reasons for not making an exception are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. In other words, what will be the impact on the established aims of the school's uniform policy by allowing an exception; and

- schools are more likely to be able to show that their policies are fair and non-discriminatory when they have been widely consulted on, for example, with staff, pupils, parents and governors.

It remains the case that the Federation of the Church Schools of Freshwater & Yarmouth and Shalfleet is free to adopt a uniform policy and can require their pupils to adhere to them. However, case law indicates that we must consider making exceptions or changing their uniform policies where appropriate, not only for those of certain religious beliefs, but also for pupils who contend that a cultural or family practice means that they cannot conform and where other special circumstances apply which could be linked to one of the prohibited grounds. It must also be noted that free, good quality second-hand uniforms are made available to all.

Reasonable Adjustment (NB: the school and the Governing Body are solely reliable for reasonable adjustments): As a school we are required to take reasonable steps to provide an auxiliary aid, where a disabled person would, but for the provision of that auxiliary aid be put at a substantial disadvantage compared with a non-disabled person. This is the responsibility of the school and the governing body of maintained school.

Race: as a result of Government review of the Equality Act 2010 and further consultation caste is included within this protected characteristic. When we develop or review policies, procedures we will take this into account to ensure that we meet our legal duties under the Act.

2.3 Promoting equality: Curriculum

We aim to provide all our pupils with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To achieve this we will ensure:

- Curriculum planning reflects a commitment to equality;
- The curriculum prepares pupils for life in a diverse society and uses opportunities to reflect the background and experience of pupils and families in the school, including the promotion of British Values – democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- There will be opportunities in the curriculum to explore concepts and issues related to identity and equality;
- The promotion of attitudes and values that challenge discriminatory behaviour and

language; 8

-
- The use of non-stereotyped materials which reflect accurately a range of cultures, identities and lifestyles

2.4 Promoting equality: Achievement

There is a consistently high expectation of all pupils.

To secure the best possible outcomes we recognise that:

- Adults in the school will be expected to provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to equality of opportunity;
- It is important to identify the particular needs of individuals and groups within the school and to use targeted interventions to narrow gaps in achievement;
- It is important to place a high priority on the provisions for special educational needs and disability;
- A range of teaching methods to be used throughout the school to ensure that effective learning takes place at all stages for all pupils and that to promote pupil engagement, pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning.

2.5 Promoting equality: Ethos and culture

In our school we try to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and respectfully.

- We are aware that those involved in leadership of the school community are instrumental in demonstrating mutual respect between all members of the school community;
- There should be a feeling of openness and tolerance which welcomes everyone to the school;
- Pupils are encouraged to greet visitors to the school with respect;
- The displays around the school are of a high quality and reflect diversity across all aspects of equality
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure access for pupils and visitors (including parents) with disabilities;
- Provision is made to provide for the cultural, social, moral and spiritual needs of all pupils through the planning of assemblies, classroom based and off site activities;
- Pupils are given an effective voice, for example through the School Council and through pupil perception surveys which regularly seek their views;
- Positive role models are used throughout the school to ensure that different groups of pupils can see themselves reflected in the school community.

2.6 Promoting equality: Staff recruitment and professional development

- All posts are advertised formally and open to the widest pool of applicants;

-
- All those involved in recruitment and selection are trained and aware of what they should do to avoid discrimination and linked to safeguarding practices to ensure good equality practice through the recruitment and selection process;
 - Access to opportunities for professional development is monitored on equality grounds;
 - All supply staff and contractors are made aware of equalities policy and practice;
 - Employment policy and procedures are reviewed regularly to check conformity with legislation and impact.

2.7 Promoting equality: Countering and challenging harassment and bullying

- The school counters and challenges all types of discriminatory behaviour and this is made clear to staff, pupils, parents and governors;
- The school has a clear, agreed procedure for dealing with prejudice related bullying incidents and has a nominated member of staff responsible for recording, reporting and monitoring incidents;
- The school reports to Governors and the local authority on an annual basis the number of diversity related incidents recorded in the school.

2.8 Promoting equality: Partnerships with parents/carers and the wider community

Each school aims to work in partnership with parents/carers. We:

- Take action to ensure parents/carers from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life;
- Ensure that there are good channels of communication to ensure parents views are captured and acted upon;
- Encourage members of the local community to join in school activities and celebrations;
- Ensure that parents/carers of newly arrived pupils e.g. EAL, traveller or pupils with disabilities are made to feel welcome.

In our schools, all members of the school community have a responsibility for the promotion of equalities.

2.9 The Governing Board has a responsibility for ensuring that:

- The school complies with all equalities legislation relevant to the school community;
- The equalities policy is maintained and updated regularly; and that equality objectives are easily identifiable and achievable;

-
- The actions, procedures and strategies related to the policy are implemented;
 - The named Equalities Governor will have an overview, on behalf of the governing body, on any diversity related incidents which are a breach of this policy and ensure that appropriate action is taken

2.10 The headteacher and senior leadership has a responsibility for:

- In partnership with the Governing Board, providing leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- Overseeing the implementation of the equality policy and any supporting action plans;
- Co-ordinating activities related to equality and evaluating impact;
- Ensuring that all who enter the school are aware of, and comply with, the equalities legislation;
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and receive training and support;
- Taking appropriate action in response to all forms of diversity incidents and discrimination

2.11 All school staff have responsibility for:

- The implementation of the schools equalities policy and any supporting action plans;
- Dealing with reported incidents of discrimination and knowing how to identify and challenge bias and stereotyping;
- Ensuring they do not discriminate on grounds of ethnicity and culture, disability, sexual orientation or other equality protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion/belief, sex or sexual orientation
- Keeping up to date with equalities legislation by attending training events organised by the school, local authority, or recognised training provider.

2.12 Measuring the impact of the policy

The equalities policy and all other relevant policies listed in 3.1 of this policy will be evaluated and monitored for their equality impact on pupils, staff, parents and carers from different groups that make up our schools. As part of this policy action plan (please see section 6) a timeline will be published to enable equality analysis (equality impact assessment) to be undertaken at the appropriate time. The main findings from the equality impact assessments will be published for the school community and used to

make any necessary improvements and or changes to draft policies/procedures/ action plans etc.

Recent court cases in 2017 highlight that obesity may be considered, as a disability should an employee be unable to carry out the requirements of their job role. The governing board note this as a potential HR matter and will seek specialist advice should the need arise

The Federation of the Church Schools of Freshwater & Yarmouth and Shalfleet Equality Objectives

	Objective	Success criteria	Activity	Lead	Evaluation of progress
1	To continue to promote understanding and respect for diversity and equality	All children, staff members and the wider school community will demonstrate an understanding and respect for diversity and equality	Raise awareness of aims and objectives of policy by sharing with pupils, staff and the wider community Provide further staff training in all aspects of equality & diversity to support staff understanding and awareness Introduce all aspects of statutory RSHE into the PSHE curriculum and continue to build a shared understanding of this work with parents/carers so they can support this at home	EG/CW SS/JM	
2	Ensure that the school promotes role models and inspirational people that young people positively identify with, who reflect and broaden the diversity of Modern Britain in terms of race, gender and disability	All children will have an awareness of a wide range of role models and inspirational people that they positively identify with, who reflect and broaden the diversity of Modern Britain in terms of race, gender and disability	Identify opportunities to promote diversity through all aspects of the curriculum, e.g. resourcing, study of historical figures etc Promote engagement of visiting speakers to school to broaden children's perceptions of equality and diversity Ensure the school calendar and displays reflects opportunities to reflect and remember the importance of diversity, Deliver a programme of assemblies, outside visitors and education trips to promote the ethos of equality to pupils and help pupils develop good relationships with people of different characteristics.	SC + Class teachers	
3	Ensure the school promotes and delivers equality of opportunity	All pupils feel welcome and valued Accessible environment Physical Environment Zero incidents of prejudice related incidents	Increase understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion through PSHE, RSE curriculum delivery Ensure regular analysis of any negative behaviour incidents to identify any patterns related to protected characteristics, e.g. racism, and ensure any necessary action is taken to mitigate this, e.g. further education, involvement of parents/carers etc The physical environment will demonstrate a clear representation of diversity including cultural groups and minority groups to educate the children about a variety of lived experiences All children will be able to access the curriculum through the physical environment and opportunities will be accessible to all children Utilise collective worship (assembly) opportunities to promote equality and diversity and to tackle issues of discrimination or oppression for any	All staff SLT/Governors	

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
Initials.....Date.....

			protected groups Respond to world news/current affairs issues (related to any individuals/protected characteristics) through collective worship or PSHE sessions. Continue to promote the school's position regarding equality through communication channels with parents/carers so that there is a shared appreciation of diversity and/or British Values		
4	Ensure all staff members understand their rights and responsibilities in terms of diversity and equality	To review staff related policies and procedures to ensure they comply with the Act (e.g. recruitment, CPD, flexible working, maternity and pay policies) and the Federation offers equal opportunities to all staff	To undertake an initial analysis of data relating to current employees with regard to race, gender and disability and report this to the Governors Finance & Audit Committee. To undertake an annual data analysis, noting any changes.	EG + CW All Staff	
5	Pupil achievement	To monitor assessment and other data at regular intervals to ensure that children are not being disadvantaged by belonging to a protected group	Careful tracking of attainment and progress for pupils with the "Protected Characteristics". Ensure reasonable adjustments are in place for these children. Where appropriate, work with outside agencies to achieve the best progress for our children Monitor engagement of uptake at any extra-curricular activities or enrichment provision to ensure these opportunities are accessible to all	SLT/Governors	

3

Related Documents

- Guidance on equality, diversity and governance
- Equality Impact Assessment review list
- Equality Impact Assessments
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Admissions Policy
- School Development Plan
- Behaviour policy
- School Action plan
- PSHE Policy
- Collective Worship Timetable
- British Values Policy & Statement
- Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

4 Appendix

4.1 Glossary of Terms

• Equality Act 2010	40 years of equality and diversity legislation developed and combined into a single piece of legislation
• SEAL	Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning
• SEN	Special Educational Needs
• KS	Key Stage
• EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
• SIP	School Improvement Plan
• SEF	School Evaluation Framework
• Protected Characteristic	As covered by the equality Act 2010, providing protection on the following:- age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex and sexual orientation
• BME	Black Minority Ethnic (referred to communities)
• SRE	Sex, Relationships Education
• EQUALS	IoW black, minority, ethnic support group.