

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School



Equalities Policy

Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5: v.16)

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community

At Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of age, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. or socio-economic background.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all.

At Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Aims

Our school 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.

Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.

- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

School in Context

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School is a one form entry primary school with 218 pupils on roll, of which 111 are boys and 107 are girls. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well below average as is the proportion of pupils whose first language is not English. A below-average proportion of pupils have a special educational need and a below-average proportion have an Educational Health Care Plan. The proportion of pupils supported through the pupil premium is below average. The pupil premium is funding for those pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals, children from service families and those children that are looked after. The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is below the national average. The school is easily accessible for parents and governors with physical disabilities, of which there are a very small minority. At present the school has 1 service and 14 post looked/ looked after children.

Legislation and Guidance

This document refers to 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

Other supporting documents are Department for Education (DfE) guidance: The Equality Act 2010 and schools:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf and the Equality and Human Rights Commission: Technical Guidance for Schools: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/technicalguidance-schools-england>

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board will:

- Ensure that the equality information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every four years.
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the headteacher.

The equality link governor is Wayne Bretherton.

They will:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed.
- Ensure they're familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document.
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training.
- Report back to the full governing board regarding any issues

The headteacher will:

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

All school staff are expected to have regard to this document. All staff will promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in the school, challenge inappropriate language and behaviour, respond appropriately to incidents of discrimination and harassment, ensure appropriate support for children with additional needs and maintain a good level of awareness of equalities issues

All members of the school community have a responsibility to treat each other with respect, to feel valued, and to speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour

We will take steps to ensure all visitors to the school adhere to our commitment to equality.

Eliminating Discrimination

At Grimsargh St Michael's, we recognise that all members of the school and our wider community are of equal value. The school 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.

Staff and governors are reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting, it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

New staff receive training on the Equality Act as part of their induction, and all staff receive refresher training every year.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring equality issues, aided by our equality link governor. They regularly liaise regarding any issues and make senior leaders and governors aware of these as appropriate.

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Advancing Equality of Opportunity

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people who 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.

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

- Publish 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.
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our own pupils

Equal Opportunities for Staff

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment.

All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law.

Fostering Good Relations

As a school we believe that should treat each other with care, respect and kindness, and that strong positive relationships make a great school. We aim 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, citizenship 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 worship and dealing with relevant issues. Pupils will be encouraged to take a lead in collective worship and we will also invite external speakers to contribute.
- Working with our local community. This includes inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak during RE lessons and collective worship and organising school trips and activities based around the local community.
- Working with parents to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures.
- Striving to develop links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop our approach

Admissions and Exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors.

Exclusions will always be based on our school's Behaviour Policy. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

Monitoring

We will review and update the equality information we publish at least each year to demonstrate how we are meeting the aims of the general public sector equality duty and to evidence progress made towards our equality objectives. Our objectives will be drawn up and published by the Governing Board at least every 4 years.

Considering Equalities in decision making

Our school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made. We consider equality implications before and at the time that we develop policy and make decisions and continue to review these on a continuing basis. We ask relevant questions about the impact of our decisions on different groups in the school community.

Consultation and involvement

It is a requirement that the development of this policy and the actions within it have been informed by the input of staff, pupils and parents and carers. We have achieved this by using the following to shape the plan:

- Feedback from the annual parent questionnaire and parents evening;
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings / INSET;
- Feedback from the school council, PSHE lessons, whole school surveys on children's attitudes to self and school;
- Feedback at the SEN forums
- Issues raised in annual reviews for EHCPs, or reviews of progress on Targeted Learning Plans/Emotional First Aid Plans, Medium Term Plans, mentoring and support;
- Feedback at governing body meetings.

Publishing the policy and plan

We will:

- Publish our policy on the school website.
- Raise awareness of the plan through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications.

Signed: **Mr Stuart Booth**

Date: May 2025

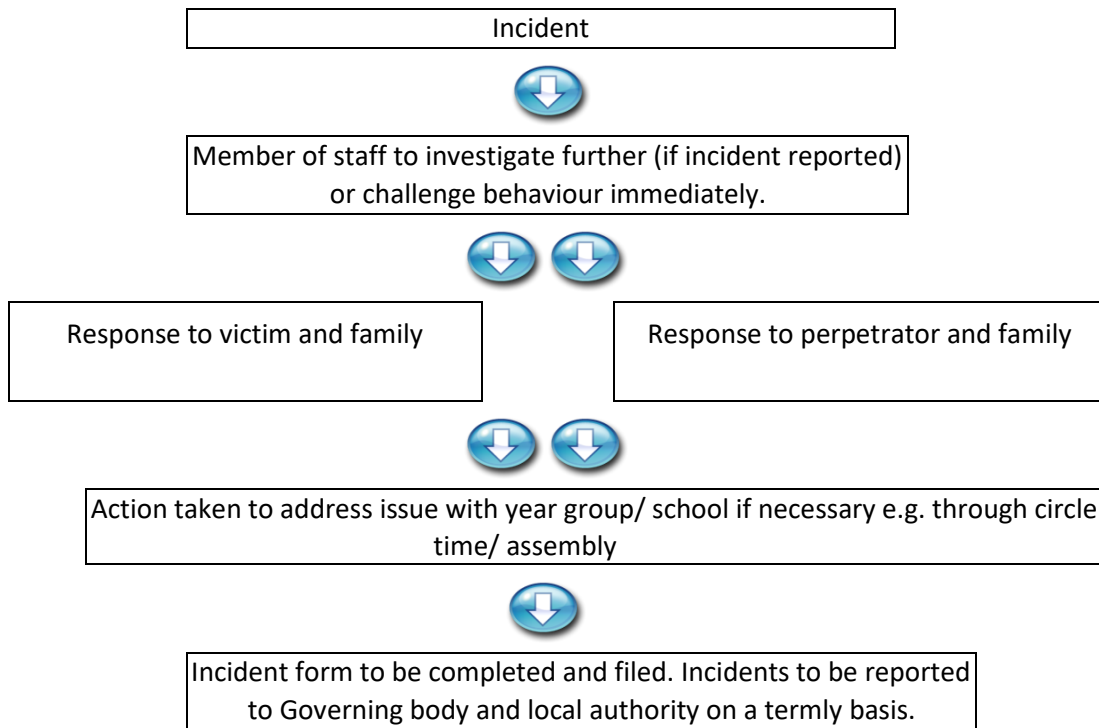
Review Date: **May 2026**

Agreed by the Governors at the Full Governors Meeting May 2025

Responding to and reporting incidents

It should be clear to pupils and staff how they report incidents. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should view dealing with incidents as vital to the well-being of the whole school.

Our procedure for responding and reporting is outlined below:



Appendix 1– for information

Race

The term race includes colour, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin and citizenship as well as race.

Disability

What is a disability?

Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. That effect must be:

- substantial (more than minor or trivial)
 - adverse
- long-term (it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year or for the rest of the life of the person affected).

There is no need for a person to have a specific, medically-diagnosed cause for their impairment- what matters is the effect of the impairment, not the cause. Examples include hearing or sight impairments, a significant mobility difficulty, mental health conditions or learning difficulties. There are many other types of condition, illness or injury that can result in a person being disabled (eg diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart conditions, facial disfigurement).

Gender

The term gender includes boys, girls, men and women, and transgender/transsexual people. Sexual orientation is a distinct protected characteristic. The term transgender refers to a range of people who do not feel comfortable with their birth gender.

What is the difference between sex and gender?

- Sex refers to biological status as male or female. It includes physical attributes such as sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia.
- Gender is a term that is often used to refer to ways that people act, interact, or feel about themselves, which are associated with boys/men and girls/women.

While aspects of biological sex are the same across different cultures, aspects of gender may not be.

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexism is any prejudice and discrimination against individuals and groups who are lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) or are perceived to be so. It is based on the assumption that everyone is or should be heterosexual. Expressions of dislike, contempt or fear based on heterosexism are usually known as homophobia, although lesophobia and biphobia are also coming into use. Whether through institutional practice or personal behaviour, the prevalence of heterosexism is likely to mean that LGB people feel excluded and unsafe. This effect can be mitigated by an actively welcoming and supportive environment.

Sexual orientation is defined as an individual's sexual orientation towards people of the same sex as her or him (gay or lesbian), people of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or people of both sexes (bisexual).

Transgenderism and gender re-assignment

An umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender_expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Gender reassignment is the process a transgender person goes through to change sex.

