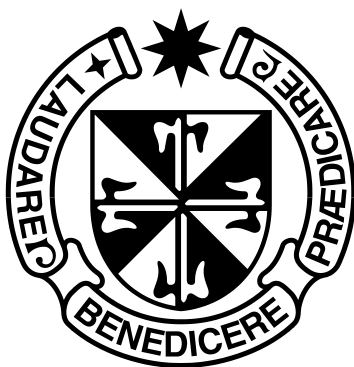


Equality Scheme

(including information and objectives)

2023

St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic School



Contents

- 1: Vision and Values
- 2: School Context
- 3: Legal Background
- 4: Roles and Responsibilities and Publish Information
- 5: Engagement – Participation and Involvement
- 6: Using information, Equality Impact Assessment, Data and Other Information
- 7: Our School's Equality Priorities
- 8: Equality Objectives Action Plan

1: Vision and Values

Our equality vision and the values that underpin school life

St Cuthbert Mayne Vision

We are a Catholic school. Our vision is for every child at St Cuthbert Mayne to live life to the full and flourish academically, spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially.

Within a safe, loving and inclusive community, we strive for every child to grow in their love of life, learning and one another.

Through inspirational teaching, every child will be challenged to fulfil their potential and know their own worth with a curriculum that is innovative, creative, stimulating and well-resourced.

In this nurturing and stimulating environment, we aim to build pupils confidence to:

- Be curious, persevere, be resilient, willing to challenge and take risks
- Be active citizens, taking part in caritas and service to others that brings self-fulfillment as well as hope and happiness to others.
- Show respect tolerance and acceptance of everyone in our school community and the wider world.

Aims of the school

Spiritual

To encourage, nurture and develop our relationship with God, in partnership with our community, through prayer, discussion and reflection.

Academic

To challenge our children to develop a lifelong love of learning, recognising and celebrating their individual potential, skills and talents and always striving for excellence.

Emotional

To help each child recognise their self-worth and to develop a positive self-image. To encourage them to value, respect and empathise with the feelings of others.

Physical

To celebrate the potential and achievement of each child. We will encourage them to challenge themselves in a safe, supportive environment. We will promote the value of a healthy lifestyle.

Social

Through our shared Christian values, our children accept and celebrate differences and diversity. Together we will build strong relationships with home, school and parish whilst embracing an understanding of the wider world.

Principles

In seeking to fulfil the aims of the school listed above, we have regard to the following principles of equality:

- ❖ All learners are of equal value
- ❖ We recognise, respect and value difference
- ❖ We foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
- ❖ We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development
- ❖ We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist
- ❖ We consult widely and involve stakeholders as fully as possible in the life of the school
- ❖ We expect society to benefit from the work we do in school
- ❖ Our practices reflect our compliance with the public sector equality duty
- ❖ We identify objectives to support and promote our work in equality.

2: School Context

The characteristics of our school

A brief description of our school and its community setting

St Cuthbert Mayne is a two-form entry Catholic junior school within the trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster. As such, it has voluntary-aided status and gives priority within its admission arrangements to children of the Catholic faith.

The catchment area is particularly wide. This results in a very diverse pattern of social and economic background. The school deprivation indicator is low.

Attendance is good, with little unauthorised absence. The school monitors attendance and has a number of procedures to follow up absences in order to achieve excellent attendance levels.

Most children transfer directly from St Rose's Infant School and most Year 6 move on to John F. Kennedy Secondary School

Children's attainment on entry is above regional and national averages in the core subjects. Children with special educational needs and disability, including those with Education and Health Care Plans, are identified on the SEN provision list. The majority of pupils are White/British. A minority of children (less than 10%) are registered for FSM. A number of children have a first language other than English. Details are recorded on the annual census.

Significant partnerships, extended provision, etc.

We have formed partnerships with a number of educational and other groups. Current partnerships include:

- Diocese of Westminster
- St Albans Deanery
- Dominican Associates
- Herts for Learning Education
- Dacorum Catholic Schools Hub Partnership
- Dacorum Schools' PE Partnership
- Dacorum Schools' Partnership
- Hertfordshire Music School
- SW Herts SPLD Base
- Gade Schools Family Support
- Delivering Special Provision Locally 8 (DSPL8)
- Learning and Wellbeing Psychology
- Lifestyle Studios Education and Wellbeing
- Apex Multisports
- WFC Community Sports and Education Trust

A significant amount of extended provision is provided for pupils in after-school or extra-curricular clubs. Currently these are: Breakfast Club, multi-sports, football, netball, athletics, boxing, music, orchestra, dance, drama, art.

Characteristic	Total	Breakdown (number and %)
Number of pupils	240	124 Female 52% 116 Male 48%
Number of staff	34	32 Female, 2 Male
Number of governors	12	7 Female, 5 Male
Religious character		Catholic
Attainment on entry		Attainment on entry is above the national average
Mobility of school population		Academic Year 2022-23: In-Year Leavers = 2 and In-Year Arrivals = 7
Pupils eligible for PPG	33	13.75%
Deprivation factor	0.16	Ranked in 40% least deprived in Herts (2019)
Disabled staff	0	No current declarations
Pupils (SEN)	40	16%
Disabled pupils (no SEN)	0	No pupils with a declared disability
Pupils declared as ethnicity other than 'White British.'	86	36%
Pupils who speak English as an additional language	45	19%
Attendance rate	95.3%	% as of September 2022-June 2023

Figures in the table above relate to academic year 2022/2023, correct as of summer term 2023, unless stated

3: Legal Background

The duties that underpin our scheme

Our school is committed to meeting its public sector statutory duties as detailed below. We understand that the duties apply to service delivery and employment and staff management as well as policy development and implementation.

General Duty under the Equality Act 2010:

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

- **eliminate discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- **advance equality of opportunity** between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- **foster good relations** between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Specific Duties of the Act enable schools to meet their obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

The specific duties require schools to:

- *Publish annually information quantitative and qualitative, showing compliance with the public sector equality duty (PSED) set out in clause 149 of the Equality Act 2010.*
- *To set every four years one or more specific measurable equality objectives that further the aims of the equality duty.*

Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 protects pupils from discrimination and harassment based on protected characteristics. The protected characteristics for school provisions are:

- *age (for staff only)*
- *disability*
- *ethnicity and race*
- *gender (sex)*
- *gender identity and reassignment*
- *pregnancy, maternity and breast feeding*
- *religion and belief*
- *sexual orientation*

Disability

At St. Cuthbert Mayne School we implement accessibility plans which are aimed at:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum;
- improving the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided;
- improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

Provision for disabled pupils is closely linked with the existing provisions for pupils with special educational needs.

These are the same duties as previously existed under the DDA and have been replicated in the Equality Act 2010.

Community Cohesion

- *Community Cohesion supports good practice in educating pupils/students about equality and diversity. It contributes to the school's efforts to provide a broad, balanced curriculum.*

4: Roles and Responsibilities and Publish Information

Chain of accountability

The Board of Governors, supported by the Headteacher and staff, is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this scheme.

Commitment to Implementation

The Headteacher retains overall responsibility for ensuring that the action plan is delivered effectively.

Every term, key staff will report to the Headteacher on actions and progress.

Every term there will be a report on equality and diversity to the Governors meeting.

All staff are responsible for delivering the scheme both as employees and as it relates to their area of work.

Responsibility for	Key person
Disability equality	Headteacher, SENDCo
SEND	SENDCo
Accessibility	Headteacher, SENDCo and Site Manager
Behaviour (including bullying incidents)	Headteacher, SLT
Gender equality (including bullying incidents)	Headteacher, SLT
Race equality (including racist incidents)	Headteacher, SLT
Equality and diversity in curriculum content	Headteacher, SLT
Equality and diversity in pupil achievement	Headteacher, SLT
Equality and diversity – behaviour and exclusions	Headteacher
Participation in all aspects of school life	SENDCo, SLT
Impact assessment	Headteacher, SLT
Stakeholder consultation	Headteacher, Deputy Head
Policy review	Headteacher, Nominated Governor
Communication and publishing	Headteacher, Clerk to Governors

Commitment to review

The school equality scheme will be aligned with the School Development Plan. Its implementation will be monitored within the school's self-evaluation and other review processes as well as being updated at least annually. Following this regular impact assessment, the whole equality scheme will be reviewed at least every three years.

The basic principle underlying the specific duties is that of 'transparency' which ensures that we fulfil the aims of the Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. Transparency means being open about the information on which we base our decisions, on what to publish and how.

Publish Information - specific duty to demonstrate compliance with the public sector equality duty

At St Cuthbert Mayne School we will publish information annually.

Where will equality information be published? Information must be accessible.

At St Cuthbert Mayne School equality information will be available on the school website.

Commitment to Action

Governors will:

- Provide leadership and drive for the development and regular review of the school's equality and other policies
- Provide leadership and ensure the accountability of the Headteacher and senior staff for the communication and implementation of school policies
- Highlight good practice and promote it throughout the school and wider community
- Provide appropriate role models for all managers, staff and pupils
- Congratulate examples of good practice from the school and among individual managers, staff and pupils
- Ensure a consistent response to incidents, e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out the letter and the spirit of the statutory duties.

Headteacher and senior staff will:

- Initiate and oversee the development and regular review of equality policies and procedures
- Consult stakeholders in the development and review of the policies
- Ensure the effective communication of the policies to all pupils, staff and stakeholders
- Ensure that managers and staff are trained as necessary to carry out the policies
- Oversee the effective implementation of the policies
- Hold line managers accountable for effective policy implementation
- Provide appropriate role models for all managers, staff and pupils
- Highlight good practice from departments, individual managers, staff and pupils
- Provide mechanisms for the sharing of good practice
- Ensure a consistent response to incidents, e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Ensure that the school carries out its statutory duties effectively

Line managers will:

- Respond to consultation requests by creating opportunities for pupils and staff to share their comments, suggestions and feedback, ensuring that all voices are heard
- Implement the school's equality scheme, holding staff accountable for their behaviour and providing support and guidance as necessary
- Be accountable for the behaviour of the staff team, individual members of staff and pupils

-
- Use informal and formal procedures as necessary to deal with 'difficult' situations
 - Behave in accordance with the school's policies, leading by example
 - Respond appropriately to the behaviour of pupils and staff, as a whole, and individuals (praising/challenging as necessary)
 - Contribute to managing the implementation of the school's equality scheme

All staff: teaching and non-teaching will:

- Contribute to consultations and reviews
- Raise issues with line managers which could contribute to policy review and development
- Maintain awareness of the school's current equality policy and procedures
- Implement the policy as it applies to staff and pupils
- Behave with respect and fairness to all colleagues and pupils, carrying out the letter and spirit of the school's equality scheme
- Provide a consistent response to incidents, e.g. bullying cases and racist incidents
- Contribute to the implementation of the school's equality scheme

All Pupils/students will be expected to:

- Respect each other, regardless of difference or disability
- Undertake activities to promote equality and tackle discrimination
- Behave in accordance with school policies
- Sign the Home School Agreement

All Parents/carers will be expected to:

- Support school policies
- Teach their children respect of difference and disability and act as positive role models
- Work with the school to promote equality and tackle discrimination.
- Sign the Home School Agreement

5: Engagement

Involving our learners, parents/carers and others

Engagement – Participation and Involvement

We have engaged with our school community in agreeing the final policy and have been inclusive of all parents and carers. In so doing, we have taken into account the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

We consult with parents, staff and governors so that we are aware of the needs of the community and can seek to address them.

We signpost parents to the following agencies for information/support on equality:

- Disability Information Bureau (DIB)
- Young Carers Project

The agreed policy can be found on the school website. Signposting is done through the newsletter and Wednesday email.

6: Using information – Equality Impact Assessment, Data and Other Information

Evaluating the impact in terms of the outcomes

Equality Impact Assessment (EQIAs)

EQIAs help us to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination against certain individuals or groups and that the positive duties are promoted. It is a way to ensure we meet diverse needs of our pupils/students and staff and that diversity, equality and inclusion run through all areas of school life.

Impact Assessment is carried out in the following ways:

- Questionnaires to parents/pupils
- Evaluations of specific events
- Use of assessment data to track achievement of vulnerable groups
- Monitoring of incidents of harassment, eg bullying, racism, comments relating to children's academic ability, etc.
- Termly HT Report to Governing Body
- Tracking of behavioural incidents and reporting to Governing Body

We promote equality through assemblies and take part in local/national initiatives, eg Anti-Bullying Week/ Feeling Good Week/Mental Health Week.

7: Our School's Equality Objectives

Key priorities for action

Inception of the Scheme:

Governors first began work on an Equalities Scheme, as a way of bringing together other policies relating to equality, in the Autumn term 2007. A working party, consisting of parents, governors and staff met to agree action and to compile a questionnaire on disability and how it affects an individual's capacity to engage with the school. A scheme was drawn up and consultation took place with all stakeholders in Spring 2008. A first specific request was made to parents for disability information and the first Register of Access Needs was drawn up in the Spring term 2008. Since this time, parents are asked to complete a Disability, Equality and Inclusion questionnaire at the time of admission. A register of Access Needs is updated annually from this information.

The most recent reviews/activities linked to the Equalities Scheme are as follows:

Anti-Bullying Week, Nov 2022
 Children's Mental Health Awareness week February 2023
 Complaints Procedure, Summer 2023
 School Development and Access Plan update Termly
 Register of Access Needs, updated September 2022
 Behaviour Policy Spring 2022
 SEN and Disabilities Policy, Summer 2021
 Data Protection Policy, Autumn 2021
 Attendance Policy, Summer 2023
 Staff Sickness Absence Policy Summer 2023
 Whistleblowing Policy Spring 2022
 RSE Policy Summer 2023
 Anti-Bully Policy Spring 2022
 Disciplinary Policy and Procedure Autumn 2021
 Inclusion Policy Autumn 2021
 Children with a Social Worker Policy Autumn 2022
 Child Protection Policy Autumn 2022
 Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Summer 2021
 Health and Safety Policy Spring 2023
 Remote Learning Policy Spring 2021

Our school's equality objectives are implicit in our Mission Statement and School Improvement and Progress Plan. They reflect our belief that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and that God's love for us is unconditional.

List of equality objectives:

Equality Objectives	Protected Characteristic
1. Diminish the difference in achievement of disadvantaged and “others”; SEN and “others”.	Equality in opportunity
2. Address missed learning and those suffering mental health issues.	Equality in opportunity
3. Increase progress of all children, including all minority groups.	Gender, race, disability, religion and belief.
4. Promote racial harmony and understanding.	Race
5. Protect individuals from bullying and harassment.	All characteristics.
6. Promote the uniqueness of individuals as a miracle of creation and cause for celebration.	All characteristics.

Setting Equality Objectives Action Plan

Equality Objectives	Protected Characteristic	R	A	G	General Duty	Responsibility	Measurable success Indicator	Timing	Review date
1. Diminish the difference in achievement of disadvantaged and “others”; SEN and “others”.	Equality in opportunity			x	To ensure equality of opportunity for disadvantaged and those with SEN.	Overall: Headteacher SEND: SENDCo SLT All classroom staff.	progress tracking; provision maps; SEN tracking.	Termly	Ongoing End of each term
2. Address missed learning and those suffering mental health issues.	Equality in opportunity			x	Identification of needs and support – mentoring; interventions; Rainbows etc.	Mental Health Lead SLT SENDCo All staff	Pupil voice; feedback from Rainbows; mentoring; referrals; Progress back on track	Termly	July 2023 Nov 2023 On-going
3. Increase progress of all children, including all minority groups.	Gender, race, disability, religion and belief.			x	To ensure equality of opportunity between all groups of children.	Overall: Headteacher SLT SENDCo All staff	progress tracking; provision maps demonstrate a pattern of comparable achievement for all groups.	Termly	Summer 2023
4. Promote racial harmony and understanding.	Race			x	To ensure equality of opportunity for children from all racial backgrounds.	Overall: Headteacher All staff.	Racist incident monitoring demonstrates few incidents.	Termly	Summer 2023
5. Protect individuals from bullying and harassment.	All characteristics.			x	To promote safety and happiness of all individuals.	Headteacher and SLT. All staff.	Increased levels of good behaviour and fewer incidents of bullying (CPOMs).	Termly	Summer 2023
6. Promote the uniqueness of individuals as a miracle of creation and cause for celebration.	All characteristics.			x	Eliminate discrimination based on difference.	Headteacher, SLT. All staff.	Pupil voice; pupil led activities. Questionnaire responses indicate general levels of happiness.	Annually	Summer 2023