



**SACRED HEART**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL & NURSERY

## **Equality Policy and Objectives**

*This is our school.*

*Together we worship; Together we learn; Together we belong.*

*With the love of God, our dreams and ambitions come true.*

**Date: Oct 2023**



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## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

“Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”.

### **Mission Statement**

*This is our school.*

*Together we worship; Together we learn; Together we belong.*

*With the love of God, our dreams and ambitions come true.*



In line with the PSED (Public Sector Equality Duty) of the Equality Act 2010 we publish the following data:

### OCTOBER 2023

Characteristic	Breakdown
Number of pupils	209 (Rec – Year 6) 231 (Nursery – Year 6) Male – 123 (53.3%) Female – 108 (46.7%)
Number of staff	30
Number of governors	10
Religion	Roman Catholic School
Attainment on entry	Around 41% of children enter in line with the national on entry in Reading, Writing and Maths from a catchment which extends beyond Liverpool and the UK
Pupil Mobility	26 (Year Rec – Year 6) of the current NOR joined the school during this academic year from other schools or New to city  7 (Nursery - Year 6) children left the school as they moved out of the area in this academic year. (Since Sept 23)
Eligible for Pupil Premium	76 children eligible on Census Day Oct 2023 (36.3%) Ever 6 -40.2% (82)
Ethnicity	African Asian – 1 Other Asian – 13 Other Black 13 Other White 2 Arab Other – 1 Bangladeshi – 1 Black Ghanaian – 3 Black Nigerian – 35

	<p>Chinese 4  Filipino – 1  Gypsy/Roma/Traveller – 1  Indian – 42  Iranian – 1  Kurdish – 4  Latin/South/Central American – 3  Roma - 2  White British – 56  White &amp; Black Caribbean – 2  White and Asian – 2  White and Black African – 3  White Eastern European – 1  White European – 16  White Other – 4  Yemeni - 3</p>
PLAC & LAC	2
English as an additional language	67.9%
<p>Languages spoken  25 – different languages</p>	<p>English – 74  Malayalam – 29  Igbo – 25  Arabic – 19  Kurdish – 13  Italian – 7  Hindi – 7  Akan/Twi-Fante – 6  Polish -5  Yoruba – 5  Chinese – 4  Other – 4  Portuguese – 3  Tamil – 3  Spanish – 3  Russian – 3  Albanian – 3  Urdu – 2  Tagalog/Filipino – 2  Romany – 2  Persian – 2  Bengali – 1  French – 1  Lango (Uganda) – 1  Ndebele – 1  Thai – 1  Visayan/Bisaya - 1</p>

Special Educational Needs	Total children with SEN codes- 16% (37) EHCP – 2.16% (5) SEN provision (code K) – 13.8%% (32) Receipt of Top Up Funding – 6 Children
Attendance Rate Summer Term 2023 Autumn Oct 2023	Summer 23 - 5.3% Autumn 23 -3.6%
PA Rate Summer Term 2023 Oct 2023	Summer 23 -12.28% (21) Autumn 23 – 12.6% (23)

## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Equality Act 2010 requires schools to publish information to show how we are working to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a **protected characteristic** and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations between groups of people

The **protected characteristics** – which relate to a primary school – are:

- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Race
- Religion and belief

**Other groups of pupils we believe it is also important to consider are:**

- Children Looked After/ children who were previously looked-after
- Young carers
- Children eligible for free school meals or living in poverty
- Children new to the country as asylum seekers or with refugee status.

## **1. Aims and Purpose**

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery aims to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) 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.

The purpose of this policy is to outline Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School's commitment to promoting equality of opportunity in the management and organisation of the school, including employment and when seeking admission to schools, in the provision of education, when accessing any benefits, facility or service provided by the school.

## **2. Background**

This policy meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- This policy reflects the Single Equality Act 2010, which harmonises and replaces previous legislation including the Race Relations Act 1976, Disability Discrimination Act 1995, Gender Recognition Act 2004 and Sex Discrimination Act 1975. This policy therefore supersedes all previous school policies on Disability, Ethnicity (i.e. Race) and Gender.
- The Single Equality Act combines the existing three duties into one new Equality Duty that covers all seven of the equality strands: age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. At Sacred Heart we will ensure that at every level, in all our work and throughout all aspects of the school community and its life, everyone will be treated equally. This Single Equality Policy summarises the school's approach in ensuring equality for all.

This policy is a positive commitment by the school to work towards equality of opportunity to ensure staff and pupils are protected from discrimination and harassment and victimisation.

## **3. Policy Statement**

### **3a. Scope**

This policy covers all employees, pupils, governors, parents and partners of the school and other members of the community. All employees of the school should apply the principles of this Equality Policy & Objectives to any dealings they have with any person engaged with the school or on its premises.

This policy provides a framework for the Governing Board and Headteacher to provide consistent support and guidance to their employees. The policy covers all education and associated services for pupils including extra-curricular and leisure and sporting activities, after school clubs, school trips, as well as school facilities such as libraries and IT facilities provided by the school. This policy does not apply to anything done in connection with the content of the curriculum or acts of worship or other religious observance organised by or on behalf of the school.

### **3b. Statement of Values**

The school is committed to equality of opportunity in the way in which it provides education for pupils, in the way in which it affords pupils access to a benefit, facility or service and the way in which the curriculum is delivered.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery will strive to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, all members of the school community will equally value and treat one another with respect and will not treat anyone less favourably on the grounds of a protected equality characteristic: disability, gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex and sexual orientation. The school will foster a culture of respect and dignity, valuing pupil achievements and their uniqueness and recognise the importance of equality of opportunity.

The school will work to promote good relations between pupils from different abilities, cultures, religious and gender backgrounds. Everyone will be provided with the opportunity to learn and understand the School's Equality Policy & Objectives. Unfair assumptions, stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination are all unacceptable in the drive towards equalities.

#### **4. Promoting Equality of Opportunity in admissions, in providing education and access to benefits, facilities and services for pupils**

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery will promote equal treatment for pupils in its educational provision and in access to benefits. Equality will also inform our Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy (including exclusions) and our Accessibility Plan. The school will also be informed by equal opportunities when it provides services or activities to its pupils that are not strictly educational and which may take place outside the traditional school day.

The school will take reasonable steps to change any practice or policy to ensure that a disabled pupil is not placed at a disadvantage compared to other pupils. The school will do all that it can reasonably be expected to do to support pupils with a disability, by putting in place reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils.

The school ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made and considers the impact of these significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when a school trip or activity is being planned.

For pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery recognises that there may be a need for language support in the classroom and will also take into account the fact that learning is likely to be influenced by different cultural backgrounds and different experiences. The school will consider using the 'Positive Action' provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to overcome barriers for particular groups of pupils for example to address low participation or low achievement where appropriate and proportionate to do so: [Positive Actions Advice](#)

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery takes a proactive approach in making adjustments which enable individuals with physical or sensory impairments, learning difficulties and those who are living with mental health needs. It is, in many cases, the way society responds to these (attitudinal and environmental barriers) which can increase the level of disadvantage and not the disability itself. Wherever possible, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery involves the views of disabled pupils, their carers and staff.

#### **5. Equal Opportunity in relation to exclusions from school**

Sacred Heart's policy on exclusion (within our Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy) and for allowing appeals against exclusions and the duty to provide education to excluded pupils is informed by the [DfE's Guidance on Suspensions & Permanent Exclusions](#) alongside Liverpool Local Authority Guidance. The school recognises the importance of treating all pupils fairly when applying the Exclusion Policy. The school has in place arrangements to monitor the profile of pupils excluded from schools to ensure that these are exercised fairly. The school will ensure that it makes reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils when applying the exclusion process or when imposing disciplinary sanctions.



## **6. Tackling Discrimination**

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery will not tolerate any form of direct or indirect discrimination (less favourable treatment) on the basis of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The school will ensure that staff and governors understand discrimination and recognise expressions of prejudice and stereotyping and know how to challenge this. Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery is committed to teaching pupils to show respect and appreciation of individuals and to educating and preparing pupils to live in a diverse society. Our School is committed to removing unfair stereotypes and/or prejudices and barriers/obstacles to learning and engaging in school activities.

The following policies have been put in place to tackle discrimination harassment or bullying: Behaviour & Anti-bullying, recording racist incidents, recording high level/serious behavioral incidents, Accessibility Plan and Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

## **7. Equal Opportunity in Employment**

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery will ensure that fair recruitment processes are in place to make certain that every job applicant and employee receives equality of opportunity regardless of their disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and age. Employees and prospective applicants will not be disadvantaged by any conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justified. The school aims to provide equality and fairness for all job applicants, employees whether part-time, full-time, fixed term or temporary, volunteers.

Individuals will be selected, promoted on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. The School will take into account the provisions of the Equal Pay provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and ensure that there is no discrimination in pay arrangements for staff. It will work alongside and always take advice from Liverpool Local Authority and the AOL.

## 8. Responsibility

All employees and members of the school share the responsibility to ensure that the school's Equality Policy & Objectives operates fairly and effectively. However, the major responsibilities are as follows:-

In summary the **Governing Board will:**

- Not unlawfully discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sex and sexual orientation;
- Take account of equal pay legislation when implementing the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document;
- Promote and practice consistent application of the equal opportunities and other relevant equality policies – Behaviour & Anti-bullying, Accessibility Plan;
- Ensure that all individuals with responsibility for staffing issues are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to equal opportunities;
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training.

In summary the **Headteacher will:**

- Follow the provisions of equality legislation;
- Take, as delegated by the Governing Board, a leading role in the implementation of the Equality Policy & Objectives;
- Promote and put into practice the consistent application of the policy;
- Communicate the School's Equality Policy & Objectives to all teaching and non-teaching staff;
- Ensure that teaching and non-teaching staff receive relevant training where required;
- Promote knowledge and understanding of the school's equality objectives amongst staff and pupils;
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors.

In summary all other **staff will:**

- Comply with the provisions set out in the School's Equality Policy & Objectives;
- Be diligent when looking out for and dealing with any incidents including harassment and bullying (actual or perceived);
- Respect and show appreciation for pupils and other employees, contributing towards a happy and caring environment;
- Foster an understanding of equal opportunities, legislation and good practice;
- Understand and promote the school's equality objectives.

In summary the pupils **will:**

- Treat all members of the community with respect and courtesy;
- Show our school TREE (Trust, Respect, Empathy, Enthusiasm) values in all they say and do;
- Work to the best of their ability and allow others to do the same;
- Provide a positive role model to their fellow pupils;
- Respect other people's cultural, ethnic and religious heritage and all aspects of the community's diversity, in order to promote understanding and positive attitudes.

In summary parents/carers **will:**

- Treat all members of the community with respect and courtesy;
- Be positive role models for their children;
- Be aware of the Equality Policy & Objectives and support its implementation;

Should any parent be in breach of this Policy, the Headteacher will see them in the first instance, and reinforce the school's expectations. If incidents persist, governors will write to the parent. As a last resort, parents may be banned from the school site.

## **9. Breach of the Policy**

Breaches of policy will be dealt with in the same ways that breaches of other school policies are dealt with, e.g. staff disciplinary rules and code of conduct, Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policy. Any appropriate action will be determined by the Headteacher and/or the Governing Board as appropriate.

Breaches of the Equality Policy & Objectives will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary action against employees. Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery will ensure that all new employees, volunteers, and trainers and facilitators are fully informed of the school's Equality Policy & Objectives.

## **10. Resources**

Where possible, within the constraints placed upon it, the Governing Board will make available any resources appropriate to ensure the full and effective implementation of this policy. A positive commitment will be made to identifying and resourcing the different needs of pupils to enable them to benefit to the fullest extent from the opportunities offered to them.

## **11. Publishing the Policy**

Staff will be informed of the Equality Policy & Objectives as part of their induction programme when joining the school and as part of INSET training days.

The Member of Staff with lead Responsibility for the Policy in Grove Primary School is Miss Rachel Davies - Headteacher. The Equality Act 2010 requires schools to publish specific and measurable equality objectives to comply with PSED; these are outlined below.

## Key Equalities Objectives for 2023-2025

The Equality Act 2010 requires schools to publish specific and measurable equality objectives. Our equality objectives are based on our analysis of data and other evidence, including Peer Challenge school visits and reports. Our equality objectives also focus on the provision of our curriculum and those areas identified in the Hounslow Education Partnership (HEP) to improve equality and tackle disadvantages across the Local Authority; these are called Performance Challenges. We will regularly review the progress we are making to meet our equality objectives.				
Equality Objectives	Why we have chosen this Equality Objective	Actions	Impact	Timescales
<p><b>Provide training</b> for all staff and governors on equality and diversity and the barriers that make exist for pupils who are new to English</p>	<p>Staff and governors are well inducted at Sacred Heart and our school values embrace our duties in the Equality Act. Training should be current and up to date for all new and existing members of staff. Equality, EAL,</p> <p>Over 50% (Nursery in 2023 is 90%) of pupils joining as in-year admissions have English as an Additional Language and most are new to English and we want to ensure that they have the support and resources to access the curriculum and reach their potential.</p> <p>67.9% of our children speak English as an additional language (Oct 2023 Census)</p>	<p>Staff training on the Equality Act, our objectives, policy and accessibility plan.</p> <p>Staff Training on the barriers experienced by families and pupils with English as an Additional Language – including Office staff.</p> <p>SLT to explore relevant training opportunities.</p>	<p>All staff and governors aware of legislation and responsibilities of all stakeholders.</p> <p>EAL pupils who are new to Sacred Heart make progress at least in line with their peers by the end of Summer 2024</p>	<p>Annually in September INSET Days and during Autumn Term.</p> <p>Twice a year monitoring through Pupil Progress Meetings with Teacher, SLT and EAL lead.</p> <p>Termly review of progress in each subject area.</p>
<p><b>Phonics</b></p> <p>To embed the Phonics programmes that school uses to make progress towards the 2019 target of 85% or better and close gap between Local LA and National.</p>	<p>DfE research indicates that the average primary school pupil lost 0.8 months in Reading as a result of the pandemic. This will be particularly significant for pupils with EAL. It is this Sept that we have welcomed over 26 new to city children and many families arriving at the University</p>	<p>All staff who teach EYFS and KS1 to have a consistent and ambitious approach to teaching phonics, reading and vocabulary and</p>	<p>Target: At least LA % at the expected standard in Phonics or above.</p>	<p>Monitored through RWInc development days and quality assured.</p>

	Range of robust research evidencing the importance of vocabulary: Early Language Research	aspirational targets for phonics screening check. All children that start as In Year Transfer or N2C to be assessed and rapid intervention .	School Target: At least 75% at the expected standard in Phonics or above.	Phonics Screening – Summer 2024
<b>Linked with, School Development Plan and DfE Guidance</b> Attendance	We are proud of our commitment to excellent attendance at Sacred Heart which has been a priority for 2 years and since Ofsted Report 2019. As a good school we want to ensure that attendance is improving and that we address any issues there may be for any groups with protected characteristics or other groups we have identified as a school.	Attendance Lead to monitor attendance weekly and address any issues on an individual basis. Fortnightly meetings with Education Welfare Officer  <b>For additional issues:</b> Parent Support Adviser Early Help Parent Workshops or meetings Translation in meetings referrals to SLA Family Support Workers School Nurse support JJ – 1 day weekly	Pupils with attendance below 90% are not predominantly from SEND, or PP and EAL in the EYFS – expectations. Attendance gap between school and National is closed. Rigour of attendance drive maintained.	Half-termly monitoring and termly reporting to the Governing Board and weekly to all teaching staff and non teaching. Reported on Reception front office, Hall and newsletters
<b>Linked with Accessibility Plan:</b> Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability or SEN  Improve and maintain access to the physical environment;  Improve the delivery of written information to pupils.	See Accessibility Plan for current good practice and reasons for objectives: Sacred Heart <a href="#">Accessibility Plan</a> (to be updated in 2024.)		See Accessibility Plan for outcomes and timescales: <a href="#">Sacred Heart Accessibility Plan</a>	

<p><b>Curriculum Provision:</b> All pupils have access to a rich, broad curriculum where diversity, tolerance and community cohesion is promoted.</p>	<p>Our curriculum has been designed to promote the school values and to ensure all pupils feel the curriculum reflects aspects of their lives and differences to be celebrated.</p> <p>Our curriculum aims to 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, RSHE 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.</p> <p>We will be introducing a new RE Curriculum in EYFS in Oct 2023 and introduced into Year 1-6 by Sept 2024.</p>	<p>Opportunities for all to express opinions and explore ideas about identity and diversity e.g. circle times as part of work in PSHE; activities promoting non-stereotypical role models; Provision of positive images of race, gender, age, disability, culture. Relationships &amp; Health Curriculum (RHE) using Ten:Ten and PSHE Association spiraling curriculum.</p> <p>We will adapt Kapow History and Geography to mirror our cohorts and celebrate the range of cultures and faiths whilst retaining our distinct Catholic nature.</p> <p><b>Music and PE will provide a stimulus that</b> reinforce positive attitudes, challenge stereotypes and are reflective of our diverse community. Sharing of cultural and other experiences (writing, drawings, music,</p>	<p>Governors will review aspects of curricular provision at each governor meeting.</p> <p>Scrutiny of data by Governors looking at specific groups of children e.g. gender, disability, EAL, SEN</p> <p>Year 6 end of school interviews to ascertain enjoyment and inclusion at school to start Summer 2024. Outcomes in pupils' books to reflect equality.</p> <p>Headteacher report details incidents of bullying or discrimination or any complaints made in relation to equality issues. Staff and Governor learning walks record classroom environments and inclusivity of resources and displays.</p> <p>SLT to observe teachers three times per academic year and</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>Each school term – Autumn, Spring and Summer</p> <p>Governors annually interview each Year 6 pupil about school life and experiences.</p> <p>Three times a year in FGB meetings</p> <p>Annual as part of School Development Strategy</p> <p>Three formal</p>
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		<p>artefacts,books, plays, pictures and talks bychildren and visitors);          Differentiation to meet individual needs and overcome barriers to inclusion, including support for pupils for whom English is an additional language, and those with special educational needs; displays reflecting the school's diversity of language, culture, religion etc.;</p> <p>Specific encouragement to ensure equal participation in traditionally gender related activities and action to address issues in areas of the curriculum where boys or girls are underachieving nationally and/or in the context of the school;          The use of assembly time to reinforce equal opportunity issues and promote the engagement of</p>	<p>assess provision and equality. All feedback takes account of SMSC</p> <p>Any trip has a note that the Visit Lead has considered accessibility and equality. (Children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) elements and how the lesson relates to this.</p> <p><b>Writing and reading supports boys interests and engagement.</b></p> <p>Purchase of new books for each class that reflect the diversity of our school</p> <p>SLT to use a range of equality themes to support cohesion and understanding of issues of race, gender, tolerance in assembly.          HT to promote PSHE themes in assembly.          Teachers undertake PSHE days each half term in all classes.          School commitment to Charities so pupils can</p>	<p>observations each academic year</p> <p>Performance Management</p>
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		<p>learners and a shared understanding of the school values. Each Monday Assembly will highlight and reflect on a British Value, Protected Characteristic and UN rights. To study of the importance of religious customs and life styles to members of the major world faiths.</p> <p>Children working in groups towards a shared goal with children having opportunities to take a range of roles within the group activities in the PSHE programme.</p> <p>Initiatives such as Charity Week/Kensington Community Centre Events /Mental Health Week and the Anti-Bullying campaign; Signing choir Celebration of the</p>	<p>experience and learn about equality issues.</p> <p>Regular certificate and achievement assemblies.</p> <p>HT works with curriculum leaders to ensure resources are reflective of modern society and aims. All classes have three educational visits each year to promote understanding of equality/difference and offer new experiences to all pupils. All pupils have access to trips regardless of financial barriers.</p> <p>School Council and E Safety Cadets Meetings held bi-weekly.</p>	
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		<p>contribution of individuals (both children and parents) from our own and different communities e.g. community display board</p> <p>Recognition that people have a range of cultural backgrounds and hold different ambitions, aspirations, beliefs and life experiences e.g. through RE and PSHE focus weeks, Black History, EID and Cultural assemblies and planned activities at key times of celebration but through the year.</p> <p>Provision of life opportunities beyond the scope of existing expectations such as a wide range of school visits, Photography project, University links.</p> <p>Pupil Voice – School/Eco/Pupil Parliament Meetings.</p> <p>Child-led assemblies</p>		
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