



The Sycamore
Church of England
Trust

Grow together, Learn forever

Equality Information and Objectives Statement

Applicable to: All Trust Schools

Date Reviewed: October 2022

Authorised Signatory:

Mr Ian Young – Trust

Leader and CEO

Mr Mark Granby – Chair

Of Board of Trustees

Review Period:

Every 4 years

Next Review:

September 2025



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The Sycamore Church of England Trust (known herewith as 'the Trust') welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Trust's general duties with regard to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination.
- Fostering good relationships.
- Advancing equality of opportunity.

We understand the principles of the act and the work needed to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not discriminated against and are given equality of opportunity. A protected characteristic under the act covers the groups listed below. The Trust will not discriminate against, harass, or victimise any staff member, pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

- Sex.
- Age.
- Race.
- Disability.
- Religion or belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.
- Pregnancy or maternity.
- Marriage and civil partnership.

The Trust aims to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality and diversity, and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff.

Our Trust is committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity.

In advancing equality of opportunity:

- we aim to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- we aim to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people.

- we encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- in order to meet our general duties, listed above, the law requires us to do some specific duties to demonstrate how we meet the general duties. These are to:
- publish equality information – to demonstrate compliance with the general duty across its functions (We will not publish any information that can specifically identify any child)
- prepare and publish equality objectives
- to do this we will collect data related to the protected characteristics above and analyse this data to determine our focus for our equality objectives.

The data will be assessed across our core provisions as a Trust.

This will include the following functions:

- admissions
- attendance
- attainment and progress
- exclusions
- prejudice related incidents
- participation

Our objectives will detail how we will ensure equality is applied to the functions listed above. However, where we find evidence that other functions have a significant impact on any particular group, we will include work in this area.

We use evaluation and data collection to inform our decision-making and assess the impact on equality of our decision-making, policies, and practices. We also welcome our duty under the Education Act 2011 to demonstrate how the education we provide meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school.

We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

In fulfilling our legal obligations, we will:

- recognise and respect diversity
- foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of belonging
- tackle prejudice and promote understanding between people from different groups
- observe good equalities practice, including staff recruitment, retention and development, and procurement
- aim to reduce and remove existing inequalities and barriers
- consult and involve widely
- strive to ensure that the communities within, around and beyond our school will benefit

- follow guidance from Bury Children's Service HR on equality in recruitment, selection and employment
- use the school's complaints procedure initially to deal with any complaints under the Equality Act 2010, use the Questions Procedure and, for any complaints not resolved internally, use the local authority complaints procedure.

Addressing Prejudice Related Incidents

The Trust is opposed to all forms of prejudice, and we recognise that children and young people who experience any form of prejudice related discrimination may fare less well in the education system. We provide both our pupils and staff with an awareness of the impact of prejudice in order to reduce the likelihood of any incidents. If incidents occur we address them immediately and report them to the Local Authority using the online reporting system at <http://portal.irisadapt.com>

Reference made to Bury Equality Toolkit for Schools

Equality Statement Objectives

As a Trust we comply with the 2010 Equality Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>).

How we comply is reviewed every year by the Trustees and our Local Academy Partners.

New objectives are updated at least once every 4 years, these link to published data.

Our current objectives (revised September 2021) are:

Objective 1:

Monitor changes to the curriculum to ensure they result in good outcomes for pupils in all vulnerable groups.

Objective 2:

Improve the quality of support for pupils in all vulnerable groups in the classroom.

Objective 3:

Continue to explore the use of new technologies to support pupils in all vulnerable groups in accessing their learning (both in school and at home).