

Ibstone CE Primary School

Equality & Diversity Policy

Equality Objectives

Our Christian Vision:

Nurture, Inspire, Grow

Our vision is to nurture our community enabling everyone to grow through our Christian values. We inspire our children to be resilient, confident and courageous whilst developing a lasting love of learning. *'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.'* Philippians 4:13

Our associated Christian values: Love, Courage, Respect, Community and Perseverance

Each value is linked to various Bible stories.

This policy was adopted: May 2022

The policy is to be reviewed: April 2025

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PROCEDURE

I STATEMENT OF INTENT

This equality and diversity procedure provides a framework outlining how Ibstone CE Primary School is a fair employer and promotes equal opportunities which do not disadvantage any person on the grounds of a protected characteristic. It is designed to ensure that clear and transparent guidelines are provided for all working in Ibstone CE Primary School and to ensure that Ibstone CE Primary School complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act (2010).

As a Church of England school, we are a Church school for everyone and not a faith school for the faithful. Ensuring equality in every aspect of the school policy, procedure and life is central to our school's Christian vision and associated values.

Our aim is to inspire all to be nurtured and to grow in all aspects of life whilst at Ibstone CE School. This reflects the chosen biblical roots of our vision statement, *'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.'* Philippians 4:13

II INTRODUCTION

1. The Equality Act came into force on 1st October 2010 and provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.
2. The Act brings together previous legislation into one single Act providing individuals with protection in relation to the following protected characteristics:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Marriage and civil partnership
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race, including ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality
 - Religion or belief, including the lack of belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
3. In accordance with its responsibilities under the Act, Ibstone CE Primary School is committed to ensuring the fair and equal treatment of its employees and all other stakeholders including pupils, contractors and applicants.

III OBJECTIVES

The equality and diversity procedure aims to:

- value and recognize all stakeholders and enable them to develop and perform to the best of their ability;
- promote good relations between different groups sharing protected characteristics and those who do not;
- support dignity and respect for all, where no form of discrimination, intimidation, bullying or harassment is tolerated;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- where appropriate, allows positive action to be taken for under-represented groups;
- allow breaches of equality to be investigated and dealt with accordingly as matters of misconduct;

- enable Ibstone CE Primary School to comply with its statutory obligations under the Equality Act (2010).

IV SCOPE

- Governing body
- All School Staff
- All Pupils
- Contractors/ Service Providers

V RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Equality Act 2010
- Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002
- Part-time Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000

VI RELATED POLICIES

- Conduct and Discipline Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Maternity, Adoption, Paternity and Shared Parental Leave Policy
- Pay Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Anti-harassment and anti-bullying at work policy and procedure
- Governor code of conduct

VII RELATED DOCUMENTS

VIII DATE OF REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed as required by the Governing Body of Ibstone CE Primary School to take account of any legislative changes and/or national policy development as well as feedback from staff, in any event, every three years, at the latest.

IX GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Definitions

- The term “relevant body” has been used throughout this policy. In Ibstone CE Primary School the relevant body is the Governing Body;
- Unless indicated otherwise, all references to “teacher” include the headteacher;
- Unless indicated otherwise, all references to ‘staff’ include teaching, support and all employed staff.

Consistency of Treatment and Fairness

The relevant body is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness and will abide by all relevant employment and equality legislation. The governing body may delegate the oversight of this to a named Equalities Governor.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governing Body and headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the school's equality and diversity procedure.

X RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsibilities of the Governors

- 1.1** Ensuring on a day to day basis the implementation and adherence to the equality and diversity procedure in schools rests with the Governing Body
- 1.2** In liaison with the relevant body as required, treating seriously any concerns raised in relation to this procedure and ensuring that they are investigated appropriately. It is anticipated that responsibility for investigating such concerns will be delegated to the headteacher in the first instance, unless the concern relates to the headteacher.
- 1.3** Ensuring that the Relevant Body are consulted with regard to any concerns or outcomes raised under the Equality and Diversity Procedure.

2 Responsibilities of the Relevant Body

- 2.1** Monitoring the implementation and adherence to the equality and diversity procedure in schools.
- 2.2** Ensuring implementation and adherence to the equality and diversity procedure.
- 2.3** Supporting the Governing Body, where required, in investigating any concerns raised in relation to the equality and diversity procedure and facilitating appropriate follow-up actions.
- 2.4** Supporting the Governing Body in investigating and responding to any concern relating to the headteacher.

3 Responsibilities of the Headteacher

- 3.1** Acting as a role model to ensure that individuals are treated with dignity and respect.
- 3.2** Ensuring that the procedure operates effectively within their span of control.
- 3.3** Ensuring that all employees are aware of the requirements of the procedure and their individual responsibilities.
- 3.4** Treating seriously and with sensitivity any concerns raised under this procedure, investigating and documenting them appropriately.

4 Responsibilities of Employees

- 4.1** Ensuring you treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- 4.2** Cooperating with the equality and diversity procedure and any other measures introduced to ensure equality of opportunity.
- 4.3** Raising any concerns in relation to suspected discriminatory acts or practices.
- 4.4** Refraining from bullying, victimising or harassing anyone you come into contact with as part of your work.

Equality and Diversity Procedure for Employees

This procedure should be made available to all employees.

Aims

1. The equality and diversity procedure aims to:

- ensure that Ibstone CE Primary School fulfils its legal obligations in accordance with the Equality Act (2010);
- value and recognize all stakeholders and enable them to develop and perform to the best of their ability;
- promote good relations between different groups sharing protected characteristics and those who do not;
- support dignity and respect for all, where no form of discrimination, intimidation, bullying or harassment is tolerated;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- where appropriate, allows positive action to be taken for under-represented groups;
- allow breaches of equality to be investigated and dealt with accordingly as matters of misconduct.

Application

2. The equality and diversity procedure applies to all employees within Ibstone CE Primary School, including those engaged on permanent and fixed-term contracts, casual workers, agency workers and apprentices. It also applies to job applicants.
3. Through application of the equality and diversity procedure, Ibstone CE Primary School aims to promote a culture of fairness and to ensure that no employee, or applicant, is treated less favourably than another on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
4. The scope of the procedure covers all aspects of the employment relationship including selection for employment; promotion; learning and development; pay and benefits; employment practices and performance management.

Discrimination, Victimisation and Harassment

Ibstone CE Primary School is committed to the avoidance of all forms of discrimination, victimisation and harassment in the workplace. This could take various forms as outlined below.

5. Direct discrimination occurs when a person treats another less favourably than they treat or would treat others because of a protected characteristic. This could arise at any point in the employee life-cycle from recruitment through to selection for redundancy.
6. Direct discrimination includes discrimination by perception: i.e. when an individual is treated less favourably because others think they possess one of the protected characteristics even if this isn't actually the case.
7. Direct discrimination also includes associative discrimination where someone is treated less favourably because they associate with another person who possesses a protected characteristic; e.g. turning down someone for a job because they are known to have caring responsibilities for someone with a disability.
8. Indirect discrimination may occur if a particular working practice or rule is applied which puts one group of employees, who share a protected characteristic, at a disadvantage- e.g. limiting part-time employees from training opportunities would impact females indirectly as they make up the largest component of part-time workers. Indirect discrimination can only be lawful if there is an objective justification for it and it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

9. **Harassment** is defined as occurring when a person engages in unwanted conduct which is related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an environment that is hostile, intimidating, degrading, humiliating or offensive for that individual. Harassment may also arise through perception or association.
10. **Victimisation** is where an employee is subject to a detriment because they have made or supported a complaint or grievance under the Equality Act or because they are suspected of doing so.
11. Positive action is permitted under law and Ibstone CE Primary School may take positive action if it is believed that employees or applicants who share a particular protected characteristic suffer a disadvantage connected to that characteristic.

Protected Characteristics

Ibstone CE Primary School is committed to the fair and equal treatment of all its employees and will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of any of the following protected characteristics.

13. **Age:** Ibstone CE Primary School recognises the positive contribution employees from all age groups can bring to the organisation and employees will be treated fairly regardless of age across the whole employment life-cycle. Employees will also not be compulsorily retired because of their age (although there are certain exceptions that may be justified if there are genuine age-based rules or work practices that have to be complied with).
14. **Disability:** a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial, long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Ibstone CE Primary School commits that its employees will not be directly or indirectly discriminated against on the grounds of a disability and that applicants and employees who are disabled are treated fairly with any needs arising as a consequence of the disability being addressed during the recruitment process and during employment.

Ibstone CE Primary School will:

- Take prompt action to identify and implement reasonable adjustments to ensure, wherever possible, disabled people can access, progress and remain in employment;
- Access specialist support and advice where required;
- Ensure action is taken against those who discriminate against disabled people;
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure employees understand their responsibilities under the Equality Act in relation to disabled workers.

Any information disclosed by an individual to Ibstone CE Primary School about a disability will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

15. **Gender reassignment:** people who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone a process (or part of a process) to reassign their gender have the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. Ibstone CE Primary School commit that any such employee or applicant will not be discriminated against on account of this characteristic, e.g. absence from work due to a gender reassignment process will be treated in the same manner as absence for illness or injury.
16. **Marriage or civil partnership:** Ibstone CE Primary School employees and job applicants who are married or in a civil partnership will be treated fairly and equally to all others.

17. **Pregnancy and maternity:** women who are pregnant or on maternity leave are protected from discrimination during the period of pregnancy or statutory maternity leave to which they are entitled. Additional statutory rights are also applicable to a pregnant employee such as time off for antenatal care and unfair dismissal protection.
18. **Race:** a racial group is a group of people who have or share a colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. Employees of Ibstone CE Primary School will not be treated less favourably on account of these characteristics.
19. **Religion or belief:** Ibstone CE Primary School employees and applicants will not be discriminated against on the basis of their religion or beliefs and will be respectful of those of other religions or their own. This protection also applies to those who do not follow a religion.
20. **Sexual orientation:** Ibstone CE Primary School employees and applicants will be treated fairly regardless of their sexual orientation and the dignity of all should be respected. Care should be taken to avoid situations where a person feels excluded or unwelcome because of their sexual orientation and line managers should be aware that harassment that takes the form of a general culture, e.g. the telling of homophobic jokes, should not be tolerated.
21. **Sex:** All employees and job applicants will not be treated less favourably on the basis of their gender.

General Provisions

22. In recruiting staff, Ibstone CE Primary School will ensure that its practices do not discriminate against candidates in ways which are unrelated to their ability to carry out the role.
23. All opportunities for employees to develop their skills and expertise will be carried out in a fair manner.
24. The pay of staff within Ibstone CE Primary School will be based upon their skills and abilities, and linked to their job role, and not based upon any particular characteristic.
25. Ibstone CE Primary School is committed to ensuring relevant training is provided to employees in respect of the provisions of the Equality Act and any subsequent revisions to it.
26. The Equality and Diversity Procedure is applicable to all staff, governors and contractors working within a school. Pupils are subject to separate policies relating to Behaviour.

Raising Concerns

27. If any employee has concerns about conduct or behaviour in the workplace pertaining to the equality and diversity procedure they should speak to their line manager at the earliest opportunity. In the event that the concern relates to the line manager, an employee should speak to the headteacher (or for central office staff, their line manager's manager) in the first instance.
28. Any employee found to be in breach of this procedure as a result of behaviour, conduct or comments towards another employee or stakeholder will be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Monitoring

29. The Governing Body should regularly monitor the effectiveness of this policy through a variety of means including:
 - all applicants for posts should be asked to complete a monitoring form to enable monitoring of recruitment decisions against the principles of this policy;
 - all applicants for posts should be invited to indicate whether they have any special requirements or require reasonable adjustments to enable them to attend an interview or carry out the duties of the post. Responses to this question and appropriate actions taken by a school to accommodate people with disabilities will also be monitored as part of this process;

- the incidence of complaints under the procedures and any other aspect of this policy will also be monitored.

Equality Objectives: 2022-2025

1. To promote role models and heroes that young people positively identify with, who reflect and broaden the school's increasing diversity in terms of race, gender, and disability.
2. To increase pupil awareness and understanding of how difference communities, religious and cultural backgrounds beyond the school live locally, nationally, and worldwide.