



Equality and Diversity Policy

For the following academies:
St Philip Howard Catholic School
St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Annecy Catholic Primary School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Bosco Catholic Education Trust.

Approved:	For review:
February 2021	February 2025

Bosco Catholic Education Trust Mission Statement

The Bosco Catholic Education Trust is a Christ-centred family of Catholic academies, within the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, working together as one body to provide an outstanding education for all. As Catholic schools, we endeavour to develop confident, compassionate and faithful young people. Through partnership, collaboration and mutual support, we seek to enable all those entrusted to our care to become the person God called them to be.

“Serve the Lord joyfully”

1. Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to provide employees with a clear statement about the school’s commitment to promoting equality and diversity within employment.

We seek to ensure that our working environment is one that respects and includes everyone, regardless of their sex or gender reassignment; marital status (including civil partnership); sexual orientation; race, language, ethnic or national origins and nationality (including citizenship); religious belief; disability and / or medical conditions; age; whether they have dependants; trade union membership status and activity or political views/affiliations.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all employees within the school, regardless of how long they have been employed, their contractual hours and contract type.

Definitions

For us “equality” is about opportunity, access, participation and contribution on a fair and equal footing and providing a framework for this to happen.

The term “diversity” acknowledges there are differences between people and the school values and respects the variety of backgrounds, perspectives, values and beliefs of its employees.

3. Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the school to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity; and
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.
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Please see the Department for Education advice for Schools at the following address for more information:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/equality-and-diversity>

4. Guiding Principles

- We are committed to providing equality of opportunity for all by eliminating discrimination. We will do this by ensuring that our practices reflect relevant employment legislation and good practice. Our employment decisions are based upon job related, objective criteria.
- We are committed to having a workforce that reflects the diversity within our community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- We are committed to the principle of appointing the best person for the job.

5. Employee Responsibilities

All employees, irrespective of their role, have a personal responsibility to comply with this policy, associated policies and to abide by the Equality Act 2010, in dealing with each other, managing staff and in their relationships with children, parents, carers, governors and other stakeholders.

In particular, employees, must not:

- discriminate against colleagues, other workers, job applicants, children, parents, carers, governors or other stakeholders;
- bully or harass colleagues, other workers, job applicants, children, parents, carers, governors or other stakeholders;
- encourage or try to encourage another person to treat others unfairly or to practice unlawful discrimination;

- victimise people who have made allegations or complaints of discrimination or who have provided information about such discrimination.

We will not tolerate any of the above behaviours. Where employees commit an act of unjustified or unlawful discrimination, or allow discrimination to occur without taking appropriate action, then they could be liable to a claim being brought against them as an individual, for example at an Employment Tribunal. The employee could also be liable to disciplinary action for a breach of the County Council's Standards of Conduct, which could result in dismissal.

7. Employer Commitment

We will carry out the following activities in order to demonstrate our commitment to equality and diversity, and also to fulfil our legal responsibilities.

7a. Employment Policies

We will ensure that our employment policies, practices and associated guidance are fair to all by undertaking an equality analysis when we carry out employee related projects, policy developments and reviews.

We will monitor the implementation of these policies to ensure that they remain fair in practice and that any barriers to and within employment are removed.

7b. Consultation

We use West Sussex County Council for our consultation arrangements with a number of trade unions and professional associations and we abide by the outcomes agreed.

7c. Staff Groups

There are three work-related interest groups organised by West Sussex County Council in partnership with UNISON. They are open to all school staff. The groups are:

- GLO-West (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Staff Group – contact james.ironside@westsussex.gov.uk
- Disabled Staff Group for staff with disabilities – contact robert.hayes@westsussex.gov.uk and
- the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff group – contact grace.natoli@westsussex.gov.uk