



St Finlough's Primary School

Equality & Inclusion Policy

Title	Equality and Inclusion Policy
Summary	This policy sets out your commitment and approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.
Purpose	To ensure that all stakeholders are aware of this policy and its application in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion for all pupils and staff.
Operational Date	March 2023
Frequency of Review	Every 3 Years
Date last Reviewed and Approved by Board of Governors	29/03/23

1. Introduction

St Finlough's Primary School is committed to equality and inclusion.

We recognise the value of diverse environments and strive to promote a culture in which all pupils, staff and members of the school community are welcomed and supported to fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background or personal characteristics.

We are committed to an ethos and culture of inclusion in our **School** for all pupils, irrespective of race, religion/belief, political views, disability, SEN status, gender, gender identity (e.g. transgender) and/or sexual orientation (LGBTQ+).

St Finlough's Primary School is an inclusive school where we focus on the well-being and progress of all our children and young people and where all members of our school community are of equal worth.

We recognise, respect and value difference and understand that diversity is a strength that enriches our lives. We take account of differences and strive to remove any barriers to learning and development.

We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination and bullying and harassment. As a school community, we recognise the need to champion equality and ensure inclusion for all pupils in the full life of our school; where appropriate making necessary adjustments to enable everyone's participation.

St Finlough's Primary School believes that education (both formal and informal learning) is fundamental to equality of opportunity. It prepares young people for life and is a powerful influence on access to and advancement in employment. All young people should be able to learn and develop fully in a truly diverse and inclusive environment.

All our policies and practices are fully inclusive and supportive of a welcoming culture for all communities; this is evidenced in our practices and procedures.

2. Mission and Values

St. Finlough's Primary School – Educate & Care

Our Vision at St. Finlough's Primary School is for the outstanding provision for each and every child in order for them to reach their full potential. This is delivered through a child-centred Catholic ethos.

At St. Finlough's Primary School we have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

St. Finlough's Primary School also supports the wider values of the Education Authority of Openness, Respect, Reflection, Responsibility, Excellence and Equality.

Diversity statement

St. Finlough's Primary School will provide a caring, respectful, creative and safe environment in which staff, family and community strive to prepare confident, well-rounded, lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

3. Equality and Inclusion – School Policies

Through this policy, and the wider practices within **St Finlough's Primary School** we seek to empower our young people to embrace diversity and challenge discrimination. We equip our Governors and staff to fulfil their legal responsibilities, ensure that our school's safeguarding procedures are comprehensive and inclusive and enable robust monitoring of our progress as a school.

Inclusion underpins all our school policies.

As part of our overall school policy development there are a number of policies that we must have in place and regularly review to ensure our school is addressing its statutory responsibilities. These include Pastoral Care Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Positive Behaviour Policy, RSE Policy, Social Media Policy, Digital Images Policy, Mobile Phone Use Policy, SEN Policy and our School Development Plan. Any arising incident will be dealt with by the appropriate policy. There should never be any grey areas when it comes to young people's safety and well-being.

This is supplemented by a range of other policies that as a school we feel are important to have for our whole school community. It is our belief that equality and inclusion is central to **all** of our policies and that we maintain an ethos that welcomes diversity and promotes equal opportunities for all, ensuring all our pupils and their families feel valued and supported and making sure that equality and inclusion is evident in everyday school life.

4. Responsibilities

The St. Finlough's Primary School **Board of Governors** have overall responsibility to:

'Promote equality, good relations and diversity and to comply with education and employment legislation and anti-discrimination, human rights and equality legislation that affect its statutory duties in relation to the school' *'Every school a good school – the governors role'* (Department of Education NI, August 2019)

The Governors have overall responsibility to manage the implementation of equality and diversity in our school.

The **Principal** is responsible for:

ensuring policies and procedures are in place to comply with equality legislation;

- ensuring the school implements policies and practices in line with the principles of equality and inclusion;
- following the relevant procedures and taking action in cases of unfair discrimination, harassment or bullying;
- ensuring appropriate training and awareness raising is undertaken with staff;
- ensuring that appropriate records are kept of any cases of unfair discrimination, harassment or bullying.

The **School Senior Management Team** are responsible for:

- putting the school's equality and inclusion policies and codes into practice;
- making sure that all staff know their responsibilities and receive the support and training necessary to carry them out;
- following the relevant procedures and taking action where necessary.

The School's Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Team (led by the Designated Teacher) will manage the implementation of the policy in partnership with the Principal.

All School Staff (*teaching and non-teaching*) have a responsibility for the day to day operation of this policy and will contribute to an inclusive and welcoming environment within the school.

Pupils/students are responsible for:

- respecting others in their language and actions;

- following all of the relevant school policies and codes of conduct in line with the principles of equality and inclusion.

5. How do we promote Equality and Inclusion?

St Finlough's Primary School promotes equality and inclusion within our school through the following activities:

- **School/Centre Practices** – We set clear expectations about acceptable behaviour
- **Policies** – see our range of policies
- **Facilities** – we have an accessible main entrance and building
- **Curriculum** – we examine where and when themes around equality and inclusion might be embedded into topics within each curriculum area
- **Training** – when possible, staff will be open to training on equality and inclusion.

6. Monitoring the Success of the Equality and Inclusion Policy

The policy will be monitored via a range of methods:

- Number of comments and complaints in relation to equality and inclusion to be monitored
- Positive stories on equality and inclusion to be highlighted

7. Complaint's Procedures

The school has a robust and transparent Complaints procedure. If a complaint is made regarding equality or inclusion, the Complaints process will be fairly and systematically applied. Access to the Complaints procedure can be found on the schools website at <https://www.stfinloughssistrakeel.co.uk>

8. Review cycle of policy

The Equality and Inclusion Policy will be reviewed by all stakeholders and, if required, updated every **three** years in line with our school policy review cycle.