



Our school Christian Values: **Respect**, **Self-worth/Perseverance**, **Love**, **Kindness**,  
**Forgiveness**

**Wittersham Church of England  
Primary School**

**Equality and Diversity Policy**

## **1. Our Vision and Aims for Equality and Diversity**

'We will treat everyone at Wittersham Church of England Primary School fairly, celebrating difference and meeting different needs so that all members of our school community are free to live, learn and enjoy'. Our school's core Christian Values of Respect, Self-worth, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Kindness and Love underpin our approach of all areas of school life.

God's word is very clear in telling us that all are created equal and every single person can be a child of God, receiving the full inheritance of heaven. We can look toward the Bible to learn how to love and serve everyone no matter what their age, colour, or ethnicity, gender or nationality. Bible verses tell us that the love of God for all means equality can be respected and treasured. Hebrews 12:14 'Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord'.

### **We aim to:**

- Maintain and promote a working partnership between the school, parents and community which fosters respect, honesty, truth, co-operation and tolerance.
- Help the children understand the world in which they live, have mutual respect for the values of others and work together as a team.
- Ensure that everyone, whatever their needs and capabilities, is included and catered for.
- Value each individual and recognise and respond to the needs of all children.

### **Wittersham Church of England Primary School is committed to:**

- Tackling discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity (gender reassignment and transgender), pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) or sexual orientation

[in relation to age the focus is about their employer function and not their school duties]

- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Creating good relations between different groups

## **2. Defining Equality and Diversity**

### **2.1 Equality**

Equality is about fairness and equality of opportunity and advancing equality of opportunity involves treating people differently. People should not be treated the same. Some people may need extra help or adjustments to be part of the school community; this includes teachers, administration, cleaning or catering staff employed at the school as well as pupils/ students, parents and school governors.

Relating to the Equality Act (2010) there are nine 'protected characteristics' these are age; disability, gender reassignment [transgender], marriage / civil partnership, pregnancy / maternity, race, religion and belief (and having no belief), sex (gender) and sexual orientation.

Under the general duty schools must exercise 'due regard' in respect of each of the eight protected characteristics (excluding marriage and civil partnership) to:-

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
2. Advance equality of opportunity
3. Foster good relations between different groups

## **2.2 Diversity**

Diversity is about valuing people as individuals and learning from our differences. Our differences can be visible and non-visible. Promoting diversity we can meet different needs creatively to ensure opportunities are available to all and potential is fulfilled. Promoting a diversity friendly school culture, we are able to meet our school's aims and objectives more efficiently.

Culture is about the way we behave towards one another – school governors, all employees in the school, parents, pupils and the whole school community. It is about how we treat one another and respect our differences. Promoting diversity and a diversity friendly culture helps to create a more productive school community.

## **3. Purpose and Scope of the Policy**

This policy sets out Wittersham's Church of England Primary School's commitment to promoting equality and diversity.

We believe that it is our responsibility to promote equality and diversity wider than the nine characteristics (areas) covered by legislation. We work to remove barriers and we will not unfairly discriminate on any grounds.

We do this by:

- Providing a curriculum, which promotes positive understanding of different characteristics, recognises the contribution that individuals and groups with protected characteristics make to society, and challenges stereotyping and discrimination.
- Making appropriate changes to teaching resources.
- Accessing Local Authority services e.g. Specialist Teacher Services, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Advisory Service, Early Help provision.
- Supporting children's emotional needs through e.g. accessing play therapy, school Buddy systems, nurture groups, outside agency support.
- Monitoring and reviewing this policy annually and making it accessible through the school website or in an alternative format as requested.
- Undertaking other activities and measures as outlined in this policy document, our published information and other relevant documents.

The policy applies to:

- School governors
- Staff
- Parents
- Pupils (as appropriate)
- Contractors
- Visitors to the school
- Multiagency professionals

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

All members of the school community, governors, staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors all have a part to play in implementing this policy, promoting diversity and equality, challenging inappropriate behaviour or practice to remove barriers and avoiding discrimination.

To promote understanding of this responsibility Wittersham Church of England Primary School will:

- Ensure all stakeholders are made fully aware of our Equality and Diversity policy and how it affects their work
- Ensure pupils and visitors to our school are clear about the expectations relating to our commitment to promoting equality and diversity
- Provide training / development and updates as appropriate
- Review our equality objectives and actions to ensure all relevant activity remains relevant and meets the identified needs and priorities of our school.

In addition school governors / relevant committee have responsibility for overseeing agreeing, monitoring and reviewing of our school's equality objectives, and related activity.

##### **4.1 Breaches of Policy**

Wittersham Church of England Primary School views any form of discrimination as a serious act of misconduct. Any allegation of a breach in the policy will be investigated by the Headteacher or where appropriate, the Governing Body. This may lead to disciplinary or other appropriate action being taken.

#### **5. Monitoring and review**

Wittersham Church of England Primary School has specific duties under the Equality Act (2010) to publish information about the diversity of our school community and the work we are doing to promote equality. This information can be found on our school website. We will review this information annually.

#### **6. Bullying and Diversity incidents**

##### **6.1 Pupils**

Wittersham Church of England Primary School believes all pupils should be safe and feel valued for themselves, whatever characteristics they may have. Bullying and harassment of

pupils, staff, parents, visitors and/or contractors by pupils on the basis of their identity (including a perceived characteristic, and by association with a protected characteristic) is unacceptable. Incidents will be logged, investigated and appropriate actions taken to prevent future incidents and to support the victim as outlined in the anti-bullying policy.

## **6.2 Staff and Governors**

The council and Wittersham Church of England Primary school view any form of discrimination undertaken by adults as serious acts of misconduct. Any such breaches could result in disciplinary action being taken and in the case of harassment, might call for police involvement.

## **7. Diversity Complaints**

Wittersham Church of England Primary School takes seriously all complaints; where a complaint is related to equality/diversity issues, the school procedure for dealing with complaints will apply. This procedure will be made available through the school website or will be made available in an alternative format as requested. Complaints should be made to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

**Adopted by Governors: May 2017**