



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS POLICY

Review date: July 2024

Latest review date: July 2025

Staff responsible: Henry Marshall (Head)

Chair of Governors: Mark Taylor

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following St Michael's policies:

- *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*
- *Pastoral Care Policy*
- *Anti-bullying Policy*
- *Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy*
- *New Admissions Policy*
- *Personal, Social and Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education Policy*

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the [Discrimination \(Jersey\) Law 2013](#).

Rights Respecting School policy statement

Our school's vision and values have at their heart the importance of treating each other as we would want to be treated ourselves. This is one of the reasons why the work of UNICEF and Rights Respecting Schools is so significant to us. We are committed to respecting, upholding and promoting the rights of every child. This policy links specifically to our commitment to the the following articles:

- *Article 2 - No discrimination*
- *Article 3 - Best interest of the child*
- *Article 4 - Making rights real*

Aims and Objectives

Promoting equal opportunities is fundamental to the values, aims and ethos of St Michael's school ("the School").

The School recognises the benefits of having a diverse School community, with individuals who value one another, and the different contributions everyone can make. Pupils will be taught to value and respect others. The School is committed to being an equal opportunities school and is committed to equal treatment for all pupils, regardless of race, sex, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation ("protected characteristics").



The aims of this policy and the School's ethos as a whole is to:

- Communicate the School's commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities for its pupils
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination on grounds of any of the protected characteristics
- Promote equal treatment for all members of the School community
- Create and maintain an open and supportive environment, free from discrimination
- Foster mutual tolerance and positive attitudes so that everyone can feel valued within the School
- Comply with the School's equality duties contained in the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013
- Remove or help to overcome barriers for pupils where they already exist
- Enforce that all discrimination on the grounds of a protected characteristic is unacceptable and will not be tolerated

All members of the School community are obliged to comply with this policy and treat others with dignity at all times. All parents are expected to support the aims of this policy.

Staff at the School, particularly those working at a management level, have a specific responsibility to set an appropriate standard of behaviour, to lead by example and to promote the aims and objectives of the School with regard to equal opportunities.

Admissions

The School treats every application for admission in a fair, open-minded and equal way in accordance with this policy and the School's Admissions Policy. The School accepts applications from, and admits, all prospective pupils irrespective of their gender, disability, race, religion or belief (or lack of religion or belief), sexual orientation or special educational needs ("SEND").

Parents must inform the School when submitting the Registration Form of any special circumstances relating to their child which may affect their child's performance in the admissions process and/or ability to fully participate in the education provided by the School so that we can consider what reasonable adjustments may be necessary to ensure that the child is not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other children. The School will not offer a place to a child with disabilities if, after reasonable adjustments have been considered, the School cannot adequately cater for or meet their needs.

The School has a limited number of bursaries which are means tested awards offered to those who meet the School's admission criteria but may otherwise be unable to attend the School due to financial hardship. Details of our provision for bursaries can be obtained



from the bursar's office.

Educational services

The School affords all pupils access to educational provision including all benefits, services, and facilities, irrespective of any protected characteristic (subject to our reasonable adjustments duty and considerations of safety and welfare). The School will not discriminate against a pupil on the grounds of any protected characteristic by excluding them or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The School will:

- Treat all members of the School community with respect and dignity and seek to provide a positive working and learning environment free from discrimination
- Endeavour to meet the needs of all children and ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination on the grounds of any protected characteristics
- Ensure that pupils with English as an additional language receive necessary educational and welfare support
- Monitor the admission and progress of pupils from different backgrounds
- Challenge inappropriate and unacceptable discriminatory behaviour by pupils and staff
- Encourage children to work and play freely and have respect for all other pupils irrespective of any protected characteristic
- Offer all pupils access to all areas of the curriculum and a full range of extra-curricular activities
- Work with parents and external agencies where appropriate to combat and prevent discrimination in School
- Ensure that it reviews, monitors, and evaluates the effectiveness of inclusive policies and practices
- Use the curriculum, assemblies and PSHE to:
 - Promote tolerance of and respect for each other, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013.
 - Promote positive images and role models to avoid prejudice and raise awareness of related issues.
 - Encourage children to question and challenge assumptions and stereotypes in order to better understand discriminatory behaviours and bias.

The School recognises that discrimination may be direct, indirect, or arising from disability whether or not it was intentional. Harassment and bullying in all its forms (including cyberbullying) are unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.



Religious belief

Although the School's religious ethos is based on Christian values and tradition, the School is inclusive and welcomes and respects the rights and freedoms of individuals from other religions and faiths (or with no religion or faith) subject to considerations of safety and welfare and the rights and freedoms of other members of the School community.

The School will continue to recognise and value differing religious beliefs and be aware of relevant religious festivals and their implications that they may have for certain pupils.

The Governing body, through the senior leadership team, actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Reasonable adjustments for pupils with disability

The School has an ongoing duty to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability to ensure they do not suffer a substantial disadvantage in comparison with other pupils, including during the admissions process.

Where the School is required to consider its reasonable adjustments duty, it will consult with parents about what reasonable adjustments, if any, the School is able to make to avoid their child being put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to other pupils. The School will carefully consider any proposals for auxiliary aids and services in light of a pupil's disability and the resources available to the School.

Monitoring and review

The Head regularly monitors and reviews the effectiveness of this policy and reports to the governors on the policy's effectiveness in practice.

Breaches of this policy

Pupils who are in breach of this policy may be sanctioned in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying policy.

If you believe that a child has received less favourable treatment as a result of a protected characteristic, or if you feel that this policy has been breached in any way to a child's detriment you are encouraged to raise the matter through the School's complaints procedure (available from the website)