**Saint Macartan’s Primary School,**

**Clogher**

**Equality & Inclusion**

**Policy**

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| **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**  | October 2020 |
| **Frequency of Review**  | Every 3 Years  |
| **Date last Reviewed and Approved by Board of Governors**  |  |

1. **Introduction**

Saint Macartan’s Primary School, Clogher 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 Saint Macartan’s for all pupils, irrespective of race, religion/belief, political views, disability, SEN status, gender, gender identity (e.g. transgender) and/or sexual orientation (LGBTQ+).

Saint Macartan’s 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.

The Saint Macartan’s Primary School school community, 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.

1. **Mission and Values**

Saint Macartan’s mission statement is as follows. ‘We strive to provide inspiring teaching within a supportive learning environment which empowers children to achieve. Our mission is not only to educate our children to a high standard but to create a safe, secure and caring environment in which all children are accepted, respected, appreciated and valued. Whilst Catholic, we aim to create a school community which is fully inclusive. We will work in partnership with the child, their parents and the wider community, living, working and growing together as part of God’s family.’

Saint Macartan’s also supports the wider values of the Education Authority of Openness, Respect, Reflection, Responsibility, Excellence and Equality.

In an effort to educate the students of Saint Macartan’s in a safe environment and to better prepare them for the world around us, we seek to celebrate a culture of tolerance and acceptance among all.

1. **Equality and Inclusion – School Policies**

Through this policy, and the wider practices within Saint Macartan’s, 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 Anti-bullying Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Positive Behaviour Policy, SEN policy, RSE policy and Admissions Policy. 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.

* PDMU/Religion lessons on inclusion and diversity
* Celebration of diversity; World Down Syndrome Day
* WAU lessons on different cultures/ countries children may come from
* Shared Education Lessons
* Anti-bullying week
* Internet safety activities
* Assemblies

1. **Responsibilities**

The Saint Macartan’s 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.
* 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 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/studentsare 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.

1. **How do we promote Equality and Inclusion?**

Saint Macartan’s Primary School promotes equality and inclusion within our school through the following activities:

**School/Centre Practices**

* Develop a whole school approach
* Have an inclusive mission statement
* Use a range of resources and teaching approaches
* Use appropriate terminology and language
* Tackle stereotypes
* Challenge homophobic, transphobic or any other type of bullying
* Set clear expectations about acceptable behaviour
* Equality and Inclusion as a regular topic at Board of Governor meetings
* Diversity training for all staff

**Facilities**

* Promoting and using interpreting services
* Using translated documents where available
* Having all accessible main entrance and building
* Having signage, displays and resources reflecting other languages and cultures throughout school
* Helping young people to access advice from support organisations

**Curriculum**

* Examining where and when themes around equality and inclusion might be embedded into topics within curriculum area
* Participating in Shared Education activities
* Hold equality and inclusion themed events
* Ensuring that class teachers consider the implications of equality and inclusion with their class

 **Training**

* Regular training for all staff in Diversity and Inclusion
1. **Monitoring the Success of the Equality and Inclusion Policy**

The policy will be monitored via a range of methods:

* Number of bullying incidents by equality characteristics to be monitored and appropriate action taken as necessary.
* Embedding of equality and inclusion across curriculum areas to be monitored
* Number of comments and complaints in relation to equality and inclusion to be monitored
* Record of training/ information presented to staff/pupils to be kept
* Positive stories on equality and inclusion to be highlighted
* Feedback sought from stakeholders
1. **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 [**www.stmacartanspsclogher.com**](http://www.stmacartanspsclogher.com)

1. **Review cycle of policy**

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