Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Equality Statement

Inspire, Believe, Achieve

INSPIRE: To be the best that I can be.
BELIEVE: To believe I can make a difference for good in this world.
ACHIEVE: To know I have the roots to grow and the wings to fly.

Our Mission Statement

At Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School, we promote a life-long love of learning. Through enriching, exciting learning opportunities and a creative curriculum, children are given the foundations to flourish. Our Christian values are at the heart of our school and provide us with a culture of happiness, respect and trust.

We aim to promote a sense of belonging within a warm, nurturing environment where children feel safe and valued. We celebrate cultural diversity and believe that every child should have the opportunity to be the best that they can be.

Through our encouragement of good manners, kindness and friendship, we aim to ensure our children display the values of good citizenship. We hope to instil in our children an 'I can' attitude and to provide our children with the tools to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Our School Bible Verse from Colossians 2 Verses 6 and 7

"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him. Keep your roots deep in him and have your lives built on him. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught. And always be thankful."

Our School's Christian Vision

At Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School, our vision is to be a flourishing Christian community where everyone is inspired to learn, believe in their potential and achieve all they are called to be.

Rooted in the love and grace of God, revealed through Jesus Christ and inspired by Colossians 2:6–7, we seek to ensure that every member of our school family is "rooted and built up in Him", growing in faith, wisdom and character.

Guided by our Christian values of friendship, respect and kindness, we aspire to nurture a community where love shapes relationships, everyone is valued and each person knows they belong. We aim to inspire hope, encourage resilience and develop courageous learners who face challenges with confidence, perseverance and an 'I can' attitude.

Through our motto of Inspire, Believe, Achieve, we strive to enable every child to flourish spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally. We seek to equip them to live life in all its fullness, serving others with compassion, integrity and joy and making a positive difference in God's world.

Our mission statement, motto, Bible verse and theologically rooted vision encapsulate our school's warm, loving and nurturing ethos. We are a school that has God's love and guidance at its heart, and we truly believe that we are a family working together for the success of our children and our community.

You only have to step through the door of Leigh St Mary's to feel the strong threads of Christian faith and values running through every aspect of school life. Our phrase 'rooted in faith, growing in love' expresses our belief that God's love grows deep within our school community. Through this love and guidance, we hope our children will flourish as responsible citizens with open minds, positive attitudes, dignity and integrity.

This spirit is evident throughout Leigh St Mary's: in our staff role models, our thoughtful children and our supportive families. We are a happy school community at the heart of a small, busy town. We face challenges together as a united team, committed to giving our children every opportunity to feel successful and be the best that they can be.

Our mission statement expresses our hope that children have the 'roots to grow and the wings to fly'. We want them to believe in themselves and their abilities, achieving academically and personally so that they have the skills and attributes to succeed beyond primary school.

Everyone Belongs at Leigh St Mary's

At Leigh St Mary's, equality is an expression of our Christian belief in the worth and dignity of every person. We want every child, parent, carer, member of staff and visitor to feel welcome, respected and heard.

We welcome people of all faiths and beliefs, and those with no religious belief. We value the different cultures, experiences, abilities and family circumstances that enrich our community. Every child should recognise that their family matters and that they have a valued place at Leigh St Mary's.

We recognise that fairness does not always mean treating everyone in exactly the same way. Children and adults may need different support to access opportunities and experience success. We listen carefully, identify barriers and make reasonable adjustments so that disabled pupils and adults are not placed at a substantial disadvantage.

Our Commitment to Equality

Leigh St Mary's is committed to meeting its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. In our decisions and daily practice, we give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Build good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- We respect the protections provided by the Equality Act in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, recognising that their legal application differs between pupils, employment and other aspects of school life.
- We also recognise the barriers that can arise from poverty, care experience, medical needs and difficult family circumstances. At Leigh St Mary's, we seek to understand each person's situation and respond with care.

Equality in Everyday School Life

Our commitment is reflected in the way we teach, support children, work with families and make decisions. At Leigh St Mary's, we will:

- Provide an accessible curriculum that reflects diverse lives, challenges stereotypes and encourages respectful discussion.
- Support participation in lessons, clubs, visits, responsibilities and wider school experiences.
- Work with children, families and professionals to understand individual needs and provide appropriate support.
- Teach kindness, respect, healthy relationships and personal safety through our curriculum, including PSHE, Relationships Education and Health Education.
- Challenge prejudice, discriminatory language and bullying, listen to concerns and take appropriate action.
- Promote fair employment practices and accessible communication with our community.

Our Diamond Rules help everyone put these commitments into practice: show respect and good manners; follow instructions with thought and care; and care for everyone and everything.

Our Equality Priorities for 2025–2028

Leigh St Mary's will continue to:

- Strengthen community relationships, helping families from different backgrounds feel welcome, supported and involved.
- Develop a diverse and accessible curriculum that challenges discrimination and helps children understand and respect others.
- Embed Emotionally Friendly School Silver practice, strengthening wellbeing, belonging and support for children, including those with SEND and social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Improve attendance through supportive family partnerships, addressing barriers sensitively and taking account of disability, medical needs and individual circumstances.

Our Equality Policy explains the actions, responsibilities and measures supporting these objectives. Governors and school leaders review progress, and Leigh St Mary's publishes equality information annually.

Listening and Working Together

We want everyone at Leigh St Mary's to feel confident about speaking up if something feels unfair, unkind or discriminatory. Children can speak to any trusted adult. Parents and carers can contact their child's teacher, Mrs Wilkinson, Pastoral Manager, Mrs Coop, Deputy Headteacher, or Mrs Watson, Headteacher.

We will listen carefully, take concerns seriously and work together to find an appropriate response. Our Equality Policy, Accessibility Plan and Complaints Policy provide further information.

At Leigh St Mary's, 'rooted in faith, growing in love' means putting dignity, fairness and belonging into practice - helping every child develop the roots to grow and the wings to fly.