



Wick and Marcross Church in Wales
Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru
Y Wig a Marcroes

STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2025 – 2029

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A FAIRER SCHOOL

Introduction

We are proud to introduce our school's Strategic Equality Plan for 2025–2029 'Working together for a fairer school', aligned with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan, '[Vale 2030 Strong Communities with a Bright Future](#)' and its Corporate Strategic Equality Plan '[Working together for a fairer future](#)'.

Our Strategic Equality Plan outlines our commitment to equality over the next four years, reflecting the diverse needs, aspirations, and concerns of our school community.

We promote inclusion for all protected groups under the Equality Act 2010, including embracing differences in ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability, and gender identity as well as socio-economic background. We aim to deliver a curriculum that creates a sense of belonging by being actively inclusive and supports pupil wellbeing. We proactively address bullying and discriminatory incidents, nurturing a culture of kindness and inclusion.

We are an ambitious, forward-thinking school, and with the support of pupils, families, staff, governors, and the wider community, we will continue working together for a fairer future.

Name: Sam Newton

Chair of Governing Body

Name: Ceri Thomas

Headteacher

Purpose of the Strategic Equality Plan

The [Equality Act 2010](#) makes clear that discrimination is not acceptable in society. This Strategic Equality Plan outlines how our school meets its legal duties under the Act, including the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and the [specific duties for Wales](#).

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to nine protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion and belief
8. Sex
9. Sexual orientation

As a public authority, the school must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes:

- Reducing disadvantages linked to protected characteristics.
- Meeting different needs of protected groups.
- Promoting participation in school life where underrepresentation exists.

Specific duties help schools demonstrate compliance with the general duty through:

- School development or improvement plans
- Equality objectives
- Professional learning
- Stakeholder engagement
- Annual reporting and impact assessments
- Publishing equality data
- Accessibility strategies

Plan priorities are developed in partnership with:

- Pupils and the School Council
- Parents and carers
- School staff
- Governing Body
- Local Authority

Our Plan aligns with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's [Strategic Equality Plan 2025–2029 'Working Together for a Fairer Future'](#) which includes census and economic data.

Socio-economic Duty

Effective from 31 March 2021, the [Socio-economic Duty](#) supports fairer decision-making and aims to reduce poverty. Whilst the duty does not apply to schools, our Plan includes measures to address socio-economic disadvantage.

Welsh Language

The Council's [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022 - 2027](#) and [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan \(WESP\) 2022-32](#) set out actions to support Welsh speakers. We will consider how proposals may affect Welsh speakers, including where protected characteristics intersect.

Context

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School is a voluntary aided, co-educational, English medium school for children between the ages of 3 and 11 set in the rural Vale of Glamorgan. The current school was built in ... and extended in 2019 and 2025. It consists of a single storey open plan environment with a nursery facility. Teaching areas are located in two wings branching out from a central area. The school is set in extensive grounds with stimulation play spaces, wild life gardens and forest school areas maintained by the children. The school serves the communities within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area.

At Wick & Marcross we:

Place Gospel Values at the heart of all we do.

Nurture children's passions and talents.

Empower pupil voice and honour pupil choice.

Increase motivation and engagement.

Foster curiosity and a love for learning.

Develop grit, perseverance, growth mindset and self regulation.

Provide opportunities for meaningful research and develop strong research skills.

Deepen understanding beyond memorising facts and content.

Strengthen the importance of asking good questions.

Enable children to take ownership of their learning and to reach their goals.

Solve the problems of tomorrow in the classrooms of today.

Our values are consistent with the 7 well-being goals for Wales identified in the [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#). Our equality priorities consider this Act and will help us to contribute to the Welsh Government's wellbeing goals, including creating a more equal Wales.

The world is changing rapidly and the context for this Plan similarly changes regularly. What remains the same is the need for our school to engage with the community, to collaborate with our partners and to embrace change. We must consider the diverse needs of the population whether that be due to their protected characteristics, financial circumstances, or one of the many other reasons that can affect what support our school community needs.

Since we agreed the last Strategic Equality Plan in 2023, there have been changes that have impacted upon our pupils' lives including Covid and the cost-of-living crisis. The Welsh Government has published several plans such as the [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#), [the LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales](#) and the [Draft Disabled People's Rights Plan](#). There is some reflection of these priorities in this Plan.

Equality Objectives – what we have done

- Provided a warm welcome to children and their families as part of the Afghan Relocation Assistance Programme.
- Registered as a School of Sanctuary and provided training for staff and governors on their roles within this programme.
- Completed action research as part of the Anti-Racism in our Classrooms project led by Rachel Clarke.
- Achieved our Siarter Iaith bronze award in March 2025 and continue to progress through the standards for both the silver and gold awards.
- The first school in Wales to be awarded the Christian Aid Global Neighbours Cymru Award for encouraging deeper understanding of global injustice and empowering learners to take action in July 2025.
- Taken steps to ensure that our pupil voice groups are representative of the school's learners across protective characteristics.
- Committed to the achievement of the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award in 2025/26.

Strategic Equality Objectives – what we will do

Building on the work that we have already begun, the following two objectives will help us to make further progress in creating a fair and inclusive environment for our school community:

1. To create a fair school to learn and work
2. To give everyone a fairer opportunity for a good start in life

To support these objectives, we aim to complete the following actions.

Strategic Equality Objective 1: To create a fair school to learn and work

What we will do – our actions

- Work with the Council to adopt best practice in inclusive recruitment.
- Continue to promote opportunities to use the Welsh language in the school community.
- Quality teaching and learning which is inclusive and accessible.
- Ensure school council representation reflects diversity (protected characteristics and socio-economic background)
- Deliver equality, diversity, and disability professional learning for all staff and governors.
- Strengthen the role of the Governing Body Equality and Diversity Champion
- Communicate with families in plain, easy to understand language, including home languages.
- Engage disabled pupils and staff in the development of provision through a rights-based approach.
- Undertake our reasonable adjustments duty by taking positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils can fully participate in the education provided by the school, and that they can enjoy the other benefits, facilities, and services that the school provides for pupils.
- Collect and analyse data on bullying/identity-based incidents; refine response strategies.
- Address bullying based on gender identity including recording and reporting incidents.
- Support LGBTQ+ pupils and deal with bullying/identity-based incidents Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum.

- Ensure that individual development plans (IDPs) are in place, monitored and kept under review, for pupils with an identified Additional Learning Need.
- Deliver Violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence (VAWDASV) training.
- Actively support and contribute to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Domestic Violence board to ensure victims of domestic violence and their children are supported and protected by statutory partners.
- Collaborate with partners to ensure all learners from Year 11 onwards have a 'destination' when leaving statutory school age.
- Improve opportunities for disabled people to access apprenticeships.
- Improve opportunities for people from the global majority to access apprenticeships.

Strategic Equality Objective 3: To give everyone a fairer opportunity for a good start in life

What we will do – our actions

- Improve attainment and attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM).
- Collect and analyse attendance data for all pupils, identifying any differential gaps between vulnerable groups and work towards minimising these to ensure equity-focused outcomes.
- Collect and analyse data for incidents resulting in fixed term exclusions and or permanent exclusions to evidence areas of increased concerns and seek suitable multi-agency support and advice.
- Minimise exclusion rates for pupils with protected characteristics and those with socio-economic disadvantage by implementing prevention and support strategies.
- Become a [School of Sanctuary](#)
- Continue to become more actively anti racist through professional learning using the [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#).
- Continue to develop and implement actively inclusive policies (e.g. Anti-Racism, Care Experienced Children)
- Raise awareness of climate change.

Monitoring Progress & Publishing Results

Our School will continue to check on progress towards meeting our equality objectives and report on this each year to the Governing Body in our annual equality monitoring report. This report will be published on our website and includes milestones and an assessment of the effectiveness of the steps we are taking to meet our equality objectives.

For More Information

Visit our website: www.wickmarcross.co.uk

If you have a query, please contact us:

office@wickmarcross.co.uk

Useful Links

[Additional Learning Needs Code](#)

[Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#)

[Draft Disabled People's Rights Plan](#)

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales](#)

[Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and the [specific duties for Wales](#)

[Refugee and asylum seeker plan](#)

[School of Sanctuary](#)

[Socio-economic Duty](#)

[Violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence](#)

[Well-being of Future Generations Act](#)

[Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022 - 2027](#)

[Youth Engagement and Progression Framework](#)