



Equality and Diversity Policy – the Blue Lighthouse ed

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Contents	
Policy Statement	
Inclusion in Action	
Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum	
Admissions and Exclusions	
Equal Opportunities for Staff	
Employer duties	
Equality and the law EQUALITY ACT 2010	
The public sector equality duty 2012	
Access performance	
Publication of equality information	
Race equality	
Disability and definition of disability	
Community Cohesion	
Consultation and Involvement	
What is a discriminatory incident?	
Review of progress and impact	
Monitoring and Review	

Policy Statement

We believe that all learners and members of staff should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their background, identity and circumstance. We are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates differences within a culture of respect, tolerance and co-operation. We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who work, learn and use the services of our centre.

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all students, staff, parents and carers receiving services from The Blue Lighthouse ED, irrespective of race, gender, disability, age, faith or religion or socio-economic background.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the centre feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in centre life. The achievement of students will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support students, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.



Inclusion in Action

As well as the specific actions set out beneath this plan, the centre operates equality of opportunity in its day-to-day practice in the following ways;

Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

We aim to provide all our students with the opportunity to succeed, to have a 'can do' attitude and to reach their full potential.

To do this, we will:

- Use collated data to improve the ways in which we provide support to individuals and groups of students.
- Support and promote British Values in our teaching and around the centre in the 5 key areas of; Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Have a strong commitment to the personal and social development of all learners. The centre vision and values, put together by all the staff, supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural characteristics in all learners.
- Monitor achievement data by ethnicity, gender and disability, as well as whether students are Looked After or are in receipt of Pupil Premium and implement interventions and teaching strategies to fill any gaps.
- Take account of the assessment information of all students when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets.
- Ensure equality of access for all students and prepare them for life in a diverse society.
- Include culturally diverse topics as part of the curriculum and use learners' culture as recognisable and meaningful way to engage in learning.
- Use materials that reflect the diversity of the centre, population and local, national and international community in terms of race, gender and disability, without stereotyping.
- Promote attitudes and values that will challenge discriminatory behaviour.
- Provide opportunities for students to appreciate their own culture and celebrate the diversity of other cultures.
- Seek to involve all parents in supporting their child's education.
- Encouraging classroom and staff discussions of equality issues which reflect on social stereotypes, expectations and the impact on learning;
- Include teaching and classroom-based approaches appropriate for the whole centre, which are inclusive and reflective of our students and their needs.



Admissions and Exclusions

Our admissions arrangements are fair and transparent, and do not discriminate on race, gender, disability or socio-economic factors. Our admissions policy can be found on the centre's website. We will closely monitor exclusions to avoid any potential adverse impact and ensure any discrepancies are identified and dealt with.

Equal Opportunities for Staff

We are committed to the implementation of equal opportunities principles and the monitoring and active promotion of equality in all aspects of staffing and employment. All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability and in compliance with the law. However, we are concerned to ensure wherever possible that the staffing of the centre reflects the diversity of our community.

Employer duties

As an employer we ensure that we eliminate discrimination and harassment in our employment practice and actively promote equality across all groups within our workforce. Equality aspects such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment and faith or religion are considered when appointing staff and particularly when allocating Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR) or re-evaluating staff structures, to ensure decisions are free of discrimination.

Actions to ensure this commitment is met include:

- Monitoring recruitment and retention including bullying and harassment of staff
- Continued professional development opportunities for all staff
- Leadership Team support to ensure equality of opportunity for all

Equality and the law EQUALITY ACT 2010

A new Equality Act came into force in October 2010. The Equality Act brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act. Combined, they make up a new Act that provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. The Act simplifies, strengthens and harmonises the current legislation to provide Britain with a new discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

The nine main pieces of legislation that have merged are:

- the Equal Pay Act 1970
- the Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- the Race Relations Act 1976
- the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
- the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003



- the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
- the Equality Act 2006, Part 2
- the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2012

The Public Sector Equality Duty 2012

The Public Sector Equality Duty 2012 has three aims under the general duty for centres. Whilst we are an independent centre and therefore not obliged to follow this duty, we believe that it represents good practice.

We will seek to uphold the duty in the following ways:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act by removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not by taking steps to meet the needs of protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not by encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life of in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

To fulfil responsibilities with regard to its workforce relating to the Public Sector Equality Duty's detailed above, The Blue Lighthouse ed Centre will: Collect and use equality information to help us to:

- Identify key issues.
- Understand the impact of our policies, practices and decisions on people with different protected characteristics, and thereby plan them more effectively.
- Assess whether staff discriminate unlawfully when carrying out any of our functions.
- Identify what the key equality issues are for our organisation.

Assess performance:

- Benchmark our performance and processes against those of similar centres.

Take action:

- Consider taking steps to meet the needs of staff who share relevant protected characteristics.
- Identify if there are any actions, we can take to avoid discrimination and harassment, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- Make informed decisions about policies and practices which are based on evidence about the impact of our activities on equality.



- Develop equality objectives to meet the specific duties.
- Have due regard to the aims of the general equality duty by ensuring that staff have appropriate information for decision-making. We will work towards developing an equality profile of staff to help us to understand key equality issues in our workforce, including any evidence of pay gaps or 'occupational segregation' i.e., staff with certain protected characteristics being over-represented in particular roles.

In addition, we note that it is likely to be useful to collect and consider information, appropriately disaggregated, about:

- recruitment and promotion
- numbers of part-time and full-time staff
- pay and remuneration
- training
- return to work of women on maternity leave
- return to work of disabled employees following sick leave relating to their disability
- appraisals
- grievances (including about harassment)
- disciplinary action (including for harassment)
- dismissals and other reasons for leaving.

Publication of Equality Information:

- We will collect and use enough workforce information to effectively meet the general equality duty. Where relevant and proportionate we will publish on our website some information about the impact of our employment functions on people with the different protected characteristics in order to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty.

Race Equality

We recognise that hate incidents or prejudice based bullying behaviour is driven by negative assumptions, stereotypes or misinformation. These are then directed against an individual or group, based on difference (real or perceived), and linked to, for example, racism, homophobia, negative views of disabled people or sexism.

Under our specific Race Equality duty, we will:

- Continue to take action to prevent, challenge and eliminate any prejudice based bullying behaviour using external agencies, e.g., Stand Against Racism Incidents (SARI);
- Continue to provide students with the opportunity to explore diversity and celebrate difference through our curriculum;



- Record all hate incidents and prejudice-based bullying, identifying trends and patterns to inform appropriate responses in terms of support for victims and their families, sanctions and support for perpetrators and their families and education for our children and young people;
- Assess the impact of our policies, including this Plan, on students, staff and parents by ethnicity including, in particular, the achievement levels of these students;
- Monitor the impact our plans and policies have on such students, staff and parents towards raising the achievement of minority ethnic groups;
- Continue to comply with the Local Authorities reporting procedures.
- Continue to comply with the Local Authority Equal Opportunities Policy during recruitment processes.

Disability and definition of disability

Disability Definition of disability The Equalities Act 2010 states: A person (P) has a disability if- (a) P has a physical or mental impairment, and (b) the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Under our specific duty we will:

- Provide a warm, bright, friendly and welcoming environment for all;
- Create an environment which is considerate to the health and safety of all;
- Provide adaptations designed to ensure equality of access for all to most parts of the centre;
- Create play areas which are bright, pleasant & safe to use & take account of individual need;
- Ensure all teaching and learning takes account of our inclusion principles and every member of the centre community is expected to promote and demonstrate inclusive behaviour;
- Ensure students are supported, planned for, and able to reach their full potential;

Gender Equality Under our specific duty we will continue to:

- Ensure that there is equality when recruiting staff at all levels.
- Benefit from a mixed gender workforce.

Sexual Orientation Legislation makes discrimination unlawful in the area of goods, facilities and services on grounds of sexual orientation. For centres this means admissions, benefits and services for students and treatment of students.

Community Cohesion

We will promote community cohesion. Community cohesion encompasses promoting good relations between students from different races, faiths, beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds at a local, national and international level. It aims to foster links between those who share protected characteristics and between those who do not.



Consultation and Involvement

We will regularly consult with staff, schools/colleges, the Leadership team and learners on this policy.

We will do this in the following ways:

- Feedback from parent questionnaires, parents /teacher information sessions;
- Input from staff surveys or through staff meetings, INSET;
- Feedback from the centre council, PSHE lessons, whole centre surveys;
- Issues raised in annual / EHCP reviews or Individual Education Plans;
- Feedback at Management Committee meetings.

Tackling discrimination

Harassment on account of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation is unacceptable and is not tolerated within the centre environment. All staff are expected to deal with any discriminatory incidents that may occur. They are expected to know how to identify and challenge prejudice and stereotyping; and to support the full range of diverse needs according to a student's individual circumstances. Racist and homophobic incidents and other incidents of harassment or bullying are dealt with by the member of staff present, escalating to a class teacher/ Owners where necessary. All incidents are reported to the Owners and racist incidents are reported to the Management Committee.

What is a discriminatory incident?

Harassment on grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other factors such as socio-economic status, can take many forms including verbal or physical abuse, name calling, exclusion from groups and games, unwanted looks or comments, jokes and graffiti. A racist incident is defined by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) as: 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

Types of discriminatory incidents that can occur are:

- Physical assault against a person or group because of their colour, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or gender;
- Use of derogatory names, insults and jokes;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory graffiti;
- Provocative behaviour such as wearing racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory badges or insignia;
- Bringing discriminatory material into centre;
- Verbal abuse and threats;
- Incitement of others to discriminate due to race, disability, gender or sexual orientation;



- Discriminatory comments in the course of discussion;
- Attempts to recruit others to discriminatory organisations and groups;
- Ridicule of an individual for difference e.g., food, music, religion, dress etc;
- Refusal to co-operate with other people on grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Responding to and reporting incidents

All Staff will:

- Support the Managers in promoting the equality policy and its objectives.
- Identify any training needs
- Design and deliver an inclusive curriculum to ensure highest possible outcomes for students
- Uphold the commitment made to students and parents/carers on how they can be expected to be treated.
- Record and report prejudice related incidents

Students & Parents will:

- Support the school to achieve the commitment made to tackling inequality.
- Uphold the commitment made by the Managers on how students and parents/carers, staff and the wider school community can be expected to be treated.

Review of progress and impact

This policy has been developed in line with legislative requirements, we will review the entire policy annually.

We make regular assessments of students' learning and use this information to track student progress. As part of this process, we regularly monitor achievement by ethnicity, gender and disability, to ensure that all groups of students are making the best possible progress, and take appropriate action to address any gaps.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current, effective, and aligned with organisational objectives. An earlier review will be undertaken if there are changes in relevant legislation or regulations that impact its content or application.