



HR Policy 36

Equality

This policy/procedure/guidance is written by Worcestershire County Council HR and has been adopted by DOWMAT Board on 7.10.22 to apply to all schools in the DOWMAT. It is to be read in conjunction with the DOWMAT Scheme of Delegation (HR policies and procedures section and Appendix 1.).

Our Vision

'To Love, To Learn, To Serve' sums up the DoWMAT's vision for those who come together to create the MAT, enabling all to flourish both as individuals and in community with each other; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Our Values

To Love

The New Testament sums up the entire law as a call to “love your neighbour as yourself” (Galatians 5:14). The Bible teaches that we are only able to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:10). This love is expected to characterise the way in which the DoWMAT operates, makes decisions, builds relationships, and carries out its day-to-day business: each person putting the needs of others before their own, with a commitment to the flourishing of all.



The exposition of love in 1 Corinthians 13 reminds us that love is patient, kind, forgiving, generous, humble, trusting, respectful, hopeful, resilient and enduring. Those who learn and work in the DoWMAT, and all who come into contact with it, can expect to experience that love in the way that they are treated.

To Learn

The DoWMAT is a Christian learning community that is committed to enabling all to live a life of freedom and transformation as a result of the hope and wisdom that learning brings. Learning is at the heart of the Church of England’s vision for and commitment to education. Growing in wisdom is celebrated in the Bible and all are exhorted to listen, to seek guidance, to acquire knowledge and to learn discretion (Proverbs 1: 1-6), largely through human relationships and interactions. Jesus’ teaching, as summed up in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10), describes human beings who are learning to live a life that is characterised by humility, compassion, mercy, righteousness and peace. The learning that takes place within the DoWMAT is expected to be recognisably rooted in these godly characteristics and focused upon enabling the holistic development of people who are made in the image of God.



To Serve

Service and servant leadership, was a striking feature of the way in which Jesus lived his life. The example he gave to his disciples in washing their feet (John 13:1-17) provides us with a role model for the way in which we should seek to live in community with others. Putting the needs of others before our own, supporting people in their growth and development as holistic human beings, enabling people’s gifts and talents to come to the fore as a result of our service to them are all defining characteristics of the way in which the DoWMAT operates. In serving others and meeting their needs through generosity of spirit, we manifest God’s grace and love for others (1 Peter 4:8-11).



These core values underpin all aspects of our Trust as we strive to make a positive difference to the lives of all DoWMAT pupils whilst they are at school and in later life. Through these values, we can be sure our community is one of hope; a place of transformation and trust, where all are treated with respect and dignity.

Our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Vision

Trustees/CEO/Headteacher

“Our Multi Academy Trust is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, creating an inclusive organisational culture and meeting the diverse needs of all our local communities.

We aim for all employees to feel they can be themselves, thrive at work and feel respected for who they are. We are focused on building inclusive behaviours that are built on a foundation of respect and appreciation for diversity and inclusion for everyone and in all its forms.

We recognise and value diversity of talent and aim to recruit, develop and retain talented people, value experiences, perspectives and skills. We recognise that being a diverse and inclusive employer helps us to develop a workforce which understands the needs of all our colleagues, and residents, whilst making a difference.

We are committed to ensuring that our Multi Academy Trust services are needs based and that we support our Trust Community by fostering good relations between groups who share protected characteristics and those that don't. We will promote a culture of respect and dignity, and actively remove discrimination wherever we find it. We will identify and remove barriers for our job applicants and current employees and will endeavour to meet our school needs through communication and engagement.”

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Introduction

Our Multi Academy Trust takes great pride in the diversity of the community it serves and recognises the opportunities and benefits this offers our Trust. We want to build cohesive communities and recruit, retain and develop a diverse workforce where everyone feels valued, respected, included and welcome.

We recognise that people may experience barriers, which makes it difficult to participate in the life of our community and we aim to advance opportunity and promote the values of inclusion and belonging to everyone in our Trust/Academy.

1. Statement of intent

1.1 Our Multi Academy Trust is committed to equality of opportunity for everyone and understands that the diversity of our community and staff is a strength to the social and economic prosperity, and innovation in our Trust. Our Multi Academy Trust commits to working within the Equality Act 2010 and our Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure that no, visitor to the Trust, job applicant, employee or other person associated with our Trust is treated inequitably or in an unlawful or unjustifiably discriminatory way.

1.2 Our Trust recognises that people may experience discrimination and less favourable treatment on the grounds of their protected characteristics – as described within the Equality Act 2010:

Age,
Disability,
Race,
Sex,
Gender reassignment,
Marriage/civil partnership,
Pregnancy and maternity,
Religion/belief,
Sexual orientation

We also recognise that people may experience discrimination in a range of ways and receive less favourable treatment for other reasons (e.g., on the grounds of their financial or economic status, unrelated criminal convictions, gender identity, education level or location of study, homelessness or lack of a fixed address, political view, or trade union activity).

- 1.3 Our Multi Academy Trust will also take proactive steps to pay 'due regard' to the need to enhance equality, tackle discrimination and help foster good community relations when exercising its functions.
- 1.4 The leadership and day to day operation of this policy rests with all colleagues, specifically including the Trustees/Directors of the MAT and they must ensure that all employees within their area of responsibility, partners, and contractors, are aware of the policy and understand their role in its implementation.

2. Employment

- 2.1 Our Multi Academy Trust recognises its role as a community leader, and its' firm commitment to equality of opportunity and as such aims to be an inclusive employer, and to remove any barriers to employment. Our Trust will continuously review policies, practices, and procedures to identify and remove potential barriers to equality of opportunity.
- 2.2 Our Multi Academy Trust will ensure that no job applicant, employee, or leaver receives less favourable treatment which cannot be shown to be justifiable in line with the Equality Act 2010.

3. Employment commitments

- 3.1 Recruitment and selection criteria, and procedures will ensure that individuals are selected for employment (or volunteering), promoted, and treated fairly based on their relevant merits and abilities. It is also acknowledged that certain roles are exempt from such practices legally where specific requirements are in place and offers for employment may be subject to a successful DBS check.
- 3.2 Our Trust is committed to having a workforce that is representative of the community it serves and will support and enable people to obtain employment on merit.
- 3.3 Our Trust will strive to ensure that its employment policy, practices, and arrangements are flexible and adapted to support, as far as is lawful, reasonable, and practicable, specific needs and requirements of individuals and groups.
- 3.4 Our Trust is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all staff, taking action against all forms of discrimination and harassment. Our Trust will not tolerate

any harassment, whether physical or verbal or otherwise, of employees by members of the public or colleagues. Our Trust will act on any employee grievance relating to discrimination, victimisation, or harassment. Colleagues will also be supported to report any hate crimes, through the appropriate channels and liaise with Victim Support where necessary.

4. Partners and third parties

- 4.1 It is recognised that there are stakeholders, partnerships and other third parties who collaborate and / or deliver services or have a relationship with our Trust. It is expected that all parties adhere to the Equality Policy, our values, ethics and practices and copies of this policy will be shared to those we work with, or made available

5. Procurement

- 5.1 Our Multi Academy Trust will ensure that contracts comply with this Equality Policy, strategy, and all relevant / related legislation.
- 5.2 Our Multi Academy Trust will encourage the local community to take up opportunities to contract and will seek, wherever appropriate, to offer contracts within the local community's ability to deliver, ensuring that they comply with Best Value and legislation on procurement and geographic location.
- 5.3 Contracts will be awarded on a fair and open evaluation process considering a range of factors including price, best value, and ability to deliver the contract. Reasonable opportunity for feedback to unsuccessful bidders will be offered where appropriate.

6. Responsibility for policy implementation

- 6.1 Trustees/Directors of the MAT and all employees with supervisory remit are responsible, within our school and their area of work, for implementing and promoting this policy.
- 6.2 All Trust employees are responsible for implementing the policy. They must adhere to it as part of their conditions of service and will be supported and encouraged by their managers. Any failure to do so will be considered in accordance with the Multi Academy Trust's Disciplinary Procedures and Code of Conduct.

- 6.3 Employees and those serving the community for, or on behalf of our Trust must not:
- Ignore incidents of discrimination,
 - Unlawfully discriminate against anyone,
 - Persuade, incite, or encourage another person to discriminate,
 - Harass, victimise, or abuse other employees or members of the public for any reason
- 6.4 Employees are not expected to tolerate discrimination from other members of the school community, other employees, providers or any third party or partner.

7. Examples of harassment / unacceptable behaviour

7.1 Harassment

Within the Equality Act 2010 harassment is defined as unwanted behaviour, based on someone's protected characteristic (or a perception that they have a particular characteristic) that the recipient or a witness finds offensive. Harassment could relate to someone's race, sex (including pregnancy/maternity), disability, sexual orientation, age, religion/belief, or gender reassignment.

Unwanted behaviour could include:

- spoken or written abuse, using offensive words about a particular racial group, or using phrases or derogatory language
- offensive emails
- comments or posts on websites and social media
- circulating or displaying offensive material or insignia
- images and graffiti
- physical gestures and facial expressions that mock others
- 'banter' or jokes that are offensive to the recipient or others
- negative stereotyping
- telling people to "go back home" or implying certain groups or people are not welcome (implying they do not belong in the UK)
- 'outing' someone's sexual orientation, trans status or gender identity to another person without express permission from the individual or group in question
- refusing to use the correct pronoun for someone who may or may not have transitioned or has undergone gender reassignment

Anything that is unwelcome to the recipient is unwanted. The unwanted behaviour must have the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity, or creating a degrading, humiliating, hostile, intimidating or offensive environment.

7.2 Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as: ‘unwanted conduct [related to a person’s sex] which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment’.

Examples of sexual harassment include:

- sexual comments or jokes
- physical behaviour, including unwelcome sexual advances, touching and various forms of sexual assault
- displaying or sharing any image, pictures, photos, or drawings of a sexual nature
- sending emails with a sexual content

8. Policy History

Issued	May 2023
Review	
Updated	