



# Equality and Diversity Policy

## Policy Statement

At Centre of English Studies we value diversity and recognise that our organisation is greatly enhanced by the wide range of backgrounds, experiences, views, beliefs and cultures represented within its staff and student bodies. This policy applies to all students and staff.

Centre of English Studies is committed to:

- supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities
- establishing an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect
- eliminating discrimination and advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation
- fostering good relations between different groups of people

This policy strives, not only to comply with legal requirements, but to use these to ensure that CES follows best practice.

## Definitions

*Equal opportunities* refers to the elimination of unlawful and unfair direct and indirect discrimination of particular groups and promoting equal access, treatment and outcomes that take into account specific needs of individuals.

*Diversity* – refers to visible and non-visible individual differences that include, but are not limited to, differences protected by anti-discrimination legislation. Appreciating diversity is about valuing differences and recognising that everyone through their unique mixture of skills and experience has their own valuable contribution to make.

## Legislative Background

Under equality legislation it is unlawful to:

- Discriminate directly against anyone and treat him/her less favourably than others on the grounds of the protected characteristics of: age (unless this can be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation. This also includes discrimination based on perception of the person e.g. a belief that someone is gay or a belief that someone is disabled even if this is not actually true.
- Discriminate against someone for reasons relating to their association with a person on the grounds of the protected characteristics of race, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, disability, gender reassignment, sex and e.g. discriminating against an employee/student because they have a disabled dependant.
- Discriminate indirectly against anyone by applying a criterion, provision or practice which disadvantages people with a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation) unless the person applying the provision can justify it as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- Subject someone to harassment for reasons relating to age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation. This includes behaviour that an individual finds offensive on these grounds even if the behaviour is not directed at the individual.

- Victimise someone because s/he has made, or intends to make, a complaint or allegation or has given or intends to give evidence in relation to a complaint of discrimination in line with the Equality Act.

## **Aims and Objectives:**

The aim of this policy is to ensure that in carrying out its activities CES will have due regard to:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advancing equality of opportunity wherever possible.
- Fostering good relations between people of a diverse background.

In the implementation of this policy CES will aim:

- To develop and promote a culture of equality and diversity throughout the institution.
- To develop and promote a culture of dignity, courtesy and respect.
- To support all staff and students, including provision of relevant support relating to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation.
- To work to prevent all forms of unlawful discrimination
- To deal with all forms of discrimination consistently and effectively.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

It is incumbent upon all members of CES to behave with dignity, courtesy and respect and to act in a manner that does not unlawfully discriminate at all times. In particular, staff are asked:

- Actively to encourage non-discriminatory practices and to report any incidences of behaviour that fail to comply with this policy.
- To support the aims of the CES Equality and Diversity policy

## **Application of the Policy for Staff**

### *Recruitment and Selection*

- Recruitment advertising will encourage applications from all sectors of the community with qualifications appropriate to the post being advertised.
- Recruitment advertising will appear in publications appropriate to the audience capable of producing the best candidates (subject to budget considerations).
- Job descriptions and recruitment advertisements will be written on the basis of the essential and justifiable requirements of the position.

### *Staff Development*

- All staff will have equal access to induction, personal and career development opportunities and facilities.

### *Performance Management*

- Probation and appraisal procedures will be clear and transparent and will be applied fairly across all staff.

### *Discipline and Grievance*

- Disciplinary and grievance procedures will be applied fairly and transparently for all staff.
- Allegations of discrimination, harassment or inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary procedures for staff.

## **Applications of the Policy for Students**

### *Recruitment, Selection and Admission*

- All staff involved in the recruitment, selection and admission of students will have an awareness of equality and diversity.

### *Discipline and Student Complaints*

- discipline and student complaints procedures will be applied fairly and transparently for all students;
- Allegations of harassment or discrimination will be dealt with in accordance with CES policies on dealing with bullying, abusive behaviour and the employee disciplinary procedure as contained in the Employee Handbook.

## **Sources of Further Information**

Human Rights Act 1998

[Human Rights Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

Equality & Human Rights Commission:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com>

Equality Act 2010

[Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)