

School:	Northcroft School
Policy:	Equality Policy
<p>This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis; however, should a need arise, it will be reviewed when required.</p> <p>This policy will be read, understood, and signed by all staff yearly and when changes have been made in line with government and DfE guidelines and changes.</p>	
<p>Document Control: Policies linked to this policy are: Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Online Safety Policy</p>	

Date Created:	January 2023	Version:	V1
Date of next review:	July 2026	Review schedule:	Annual
Type of policy:	Statutory	Document Reference:	NC- Equality Policy 2025-2026
Owner:	Northcroft School	Approval:	Proprietors

History of Change

Amendment	Date	Description	Change ID
1	July 2024	Created and implemented	RR
2	July 2025	Reviewed	AW

Rationale

By celebrating diversity and actively promoting equality, we want pupils and staff to feel valued, know that they are valued and respect others within a culturally inclusive environment. To ensure everyone can thrive and meet their full potential, it is essential that inclusion and equality of opportunity be at the core of the school's ethos.

We aim to promote inclusion, actively tackle any form of discrimination, and actively foster social cohesion in all areas of school life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment, and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards creating a cohesive community.

We define diversity as valuing everyone as an individual is reflected within our values and behaviours:

- Being Safe
- Belonging
- Being Inspired

Legislation and Statutory Requirements

This Policy fulfils the requirements of:

- [Keeping children safe in education 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2022) (soon to be 2023)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/data-protection-act-2018>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-childrensafeineducation--2>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/665520/Teachers_Standards.pdf
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-togethertosafeguardchildren--2>

Roles and Responsibilities

School Leads will be responsible for ensuring the policy is followed and for monitoring effectiveness. Equality and diversity will be analysed and reported on in termly governance report/meeting and the site lead will maintain the three-year Accessibility Plan and monitor sitespecific equality objectives. The Education Director(s) will be responsible for ensuring the policy is followed consistently across their region. They will use the governance meetings to provide support and challenge to ensure the site is promoting equality and diversity.

The Director will be responsible for monitoring compliance with Independent School Standards and the Inspection Framework, and for providing feedback on this to the Board. The HR Team will be

responsible for reporting on Equality and Diversity within the workplace to the Executive Team and the Board

Definitions

The Equality Act 2010 sets out that the nine characteristics that are protected are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Identity

Commitment to Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Amegreen Education Group is committed to encouraging equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion among all people involved with Amegreen Education (including children and young people who use our services, relatives, carers, its workforce and visitors) and eliminating unlawful discrimination. All people involved with the school, including children, young people, relatives, carers, employees, visitors, placing authorities, Quality Assurance Commission, Ofsted and all other external agencies involved in the care planning of children and young people shall be made aware of this policy. The aim is for our workforce to be representative of all sections of society and for each employee to feel respected and able to give their best.

We are also committed against unlawful discrimination of the public.

Intent

Amegreen Education Employees

We intend to:

- Provide equality, fairness, and respect for all in our employment, whether they are temporary, part-time, or full-time.
- Ensure we do not unlawfully discriminate because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation (protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010).

'Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired'

- Oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination. This includes:
- Recruitment and selection within pay and benefits terms and conditions of employment.
- Dealing with Grievances and disciplines
- Dismissals
- Redundancy
- Flexible working
- Promotion training or other developmental opportunities

The Amegreen Education

We commit to:

- Encourage Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in the workplace.
- Create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.
- This commitment includes training managers and all other employees about their rights and responsibilities under the equality, diversity and inclusion policy. Responsibilities include staff conducting themselves to help the organisation provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination.
- All staff should understand they, as well as their employer, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, customers, suppliers and the public.
- Take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, customers, suppliers, visitors, the public and any others during the organisation's work activities. Such acts will be dealt with in line with the organisation's dignity at work policy and/or disciplinary procedures, and appropriate action will be taken. Particularly serious complaints could amount to gross misconduct and lead to dismissal without notice. Further, sexual harassment may amount to both an employment rights matter and a criminal matter, such as in sexual assault allegations. In addition, harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 – which is not limited to circumstances where harassment relates to a protected characteristic – is a criminal offence.
- Make opportunities for training, development and progress available to all staff, who will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential, so their talents and resources can be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation.
- Decisions concerning staff are based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act).
- Review employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also update them and the policy to take account of changes in the law.
- Monitor the make-up of the workforce regarding information such as age, sex, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and disability in encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion, and in meeting the aims and commitments set out in this statement.

'Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired'

Monitoring will also include assessing how the equality, diversity and inclusion statement, and any supporting action plan, are working in practice, reviewing them annually, and considering and taking action to address any issues.

Children and Young People

- We believe that everyone stands to benefit when we embrace and value the diversity of thoughts, ideas, and ways of working that people from different backgrounds, experiences and identities bring. It helps our students and residents to grow and learn, enables them to realise their potential, improves decision-making, boosts engagement and innovation, and enables us to better meet the needs of our diverse communities.

To this end, we have made the following commitments:

- To create an environment in which individual differences and the contribution of all our students and residents are recognised and valued.
- To not tolerate any form of unacceptable behaviour, harassment, discrimination, bullying (including cyber bullying) or victimisation in any area of learning communities or homes.
- To provide guidance and training to students and residents on diversity, inclusion, and equality of opportunity.
- To encourage anyone who feels they have been subject to or witnessed discrimination to raise their concerns.
- To make every person aware of their personal responsibility for implementing and promoting equal opportunities in their day-to-day dealings with others.
- To regularly review all our day-to-day practices, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of this statement.
- To monitor the effectiveness in promoting diversity and inclusion.
- We require all members of our community to recognise these commitments and act in accordance with them. In addition, we will comply with all relevant legislation and good practice.

Dealing with Discrimination

Employees

Details of the organisation's dignity at work and disciplinary policies can be found in our internal systems. This includes with whom an employee should raise a concern/grievance – usually their line manager.

Use of the organisation's dignity at work and/or disciplinary procedures does not affect an employee's right to make a claim to an employment tribunal within three months of the alleged discrimination.

'Be Safe, Belong, Be Inspired'

Children and Young People

Unacceptable behaviour, harassment, discrimination, bullying (including cyberbullying) or victimisation of any individual is perceived as contradictory to our aspirations for a supportive working environment and will not be tolerated.

Our behaviour policy, the anti-bullying policy and local procedures outline how we will deal with issues of discrimination.

All children and young people we educate and care for should have access to facilities, equipment and the whole curriculum which positively reflects a wide range of diversity. They should also be involved in the development of equal opportunity initiatives and issues.

Support, Advice and Communication

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement are fully supported by Senior Management. Support and advice regarding the policy will be provided by The Governing Board, and HR Team who is responsible for the region in which the enquirer is based.

Monitoring and Reviewing Arrangements

All of our policies are monitored and reviewed, by our subgroup committee members, in line with the policy review dates.