

Equality and Diversity Policy

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¹ The Review Period and the Target Review Date refer to our internal policy review process. The published policy is current and is the most recent approved version

Version Control Document

Date	Version No.	Reason for Change	Author
June 2014		Policy Creation	Ruth Lockett
May 2015	1.1	No amendments required	Ruth Lockett
June 2016	2.0	Minor amendment to policy list	Ruth Lockett
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to define and encourage best practice, and to guide our compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

2. Policy Statement

TEN Group believes that diversity is natural and equality is right and that equality, diversity and inclusion are everyone's responsibility. Our TEN Group organisations intend to lead by example on equality and diversity by being pro-active, practical and positive.

We promote equality because we know it's the right thing to do.

Research shows that more equal societies are better for everyone (www.theequalitytrust.org.uk). Equality is about being valued for who and what we are. This helps us to achieve our best without unfair obstacles, stigma or stereotyping, or being restricted by anyone's expectations of our ability.

In practice, equality means three things for all of us:

- Being able get to, into and around our sites, and complete the learning journey, with *equal ease and dignity*
- Having a *sense of belonging and well-being*
- Feeling the place, the programmes and the policies have been *designed with us all in mind*

We value diversity because it makes our organisations more creative places to learn and work.

We celebrate the fact that our students and staff, are from different social and ethnic backgrounds; women, men and transgender; black and white; of all ages, cultures and faiths; lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and straight; disabled and non-disabled; from nearby and further afield.

We know that diverse teams make better decisions, and diverse classrooms produce richer learning. Diverse groups are much more likely to be more in tune with reality.

In practice, this means:

- Seeing and hearing people like ourselves around, as learners and staff, so that our organisations mirror the diversity of society
- Listening to different points of view to improve how we run the place
- Valuing our differences as well as the things we have in common

3. Scope

This policy applies to all TEN Group students, Academy Council Members, and all permanent and temporary employees of TEN Group and includes any agency, or visiting professionals employed to provide services on their behalf.

4. Legal requirements

The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty make it a general public duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Organisations working in the public sector have a specific duty to:

1. Publish information and analysis on equality performance
2. Demonstrate the effect of policies & practices on students and staff
3. Set equality objectives

5. Definitions

Discrimination is the act of prejudice against a person because they have a certain set of characteristics. It can come in any of the following forms:

- **direct discrimination** - treating someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others.
- **indirect discrimination** - putting rules or arrangements in place that apply to everyone, but that put someone with a protected characteristic at an unfair disadvantage.
- **harassment** - unwanted behaviour linked to a protected characteristic that violates someone's dignity or creates an offensive environment for them.
- **victimisation** - treating someone unfairly because they've complained about discrimination or harassment.

Protected characteristics:

1. age
2. being or becoming a transsexual person
3. being married or in a civil partnership
4. being pregnant or having a child
5. disability
6. race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
7. religion, belief or lack of religion/belief
8. sex
9. sexual orientation

6. Our Objectives

Objectives	Outcomes
1. Students and studying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote inclusive learning and high achievement. • Reduce the impact of deprivation and other forms of disadvantage on students' learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are respected, included and well looked after by their teachers and by each other. • Students know about equality and the environment as it relates to their course. • Students can work successfully in diverse teams. • Harassment and bullying are not tolerated including on social media. • Positive action is taken to remedy achievement differences between groups.
2. Staff and working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit from a diverse staff community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff profile better mirrors that of our students. • All members of staff are valued, benefit from TEN Group's well-being initiatives and in return contribute further to their organisation's life. • Harassment and bullying are not tolerated in any form. • Staff have the support and the skill to promote equality in their work.
3. Leadership and managing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership on equality & diversity and a strategy for success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior managers take the lead on promoting equality and diversity, set the tone on inclusion and lead through collaboration. • Accountable plans are in place to promote equality and diversity. • Policies and processes promote equality and inclusion.
4. Local community and procurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion equality with partners and connect with marginalised communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We use procurement to promote equality, diversity and fair employment practices. • Partnerships which benefit the local community.
5. Places and spaces – our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an inclusive environment and ambiance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaces are decorated with positive images of diverse people and their achievements. • We design, maintain and manage inclusive places and spaces. • Accessible learning facilities.

7. Raising a complaint

7.1 It is a serious disciplinary offence to:

- treat someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others or to put someone with a protected characteristic at an unfair disadvantage.
- harass someone linked to a protected characteristic that violates someone's dignity or creates an offensive environment for them.
- victimise or treat someone unfairly because they've complained about discrimination or harassment.

7.2 TEN Group will take any allegation of discrimination very seriously. All complaints will be dealt with sensitively and fully investigated. If you feel that you have been discriminated against on the basis of one of the protected characteristics listed in section 5:

- **Students** - please follow the procedure outlined in the appropriate TEN Group complaints policy.
- **Staff** – please contact your line manager or HR Services in the first instance who will advise the best course of action.

8. Organisational Responsibilities

Academy Council Members

- Monitor statistical data on participation and achievement of students by protected characteristics (where data allows).
- Monitor statistical data on staff by protected characteristics (where data allows).
- Monitor progress against the stated objectives and outcomes
- Monitor complaints.

TEN Group Principals / Managing Director

- Develop plans to meet the stated objectives.
- Ensure that equality and diversity training is available to all staff as part of core training.
- Monitor progress against the stated objectives and outcomes by protected characteristic (where data allows) and report progress to the relevant Academy Councils and the TEN Group Board.
- Address complaints.

All staff

- Attend equality and diversity training provided by TEN Group whether classroom based or online.

9. References to related TEN Group policies

- Staff Recruitment
- Probation
- Appraisals
- Learning and development
- Wellbeing
- Flexible working
- Dignity at Work (staff)
- Family leave (including maternity and parental leave)
- Admissions
- Anti-bullying (students)
- Safeguarding

10. Contact

Please contact HR Services for advice on any aspect of this policy.

11. Equal Opportunities Statement

All TEN Group policies are impact assessed to identify potential positive or negative impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics. This policy sets out TEN Group's objectives and responsibilities to promote equality and diversity.

If you have any comments or suggestions in relation to equal opportunities of this policy or procedure please contact the policy holder.