

Westgate Academy



Equality Policy

Date adopted: March 2018

Chair of Governing Body:

Review Date: March 2020

1. MISSION STATEMENT:

Westgate Academy is committed to meeting statutory duties. The UK has specific legislation on equality that outlaws discrimination and offers protection and redress to employees and stakeholders, underpinned by core British values, individual freedom, belief in personal responsibility, and mutual respect and fairness.

1.2 This policy describes how Westgate Academy is meeting these statutory duties and is in line with national guidance. It includes information about how it complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty, and provides guidance to staff and outside visitors about our approach to promoting equality.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

This policy received the full agreement of the Governing Body and was agreed at their meeting on: April 2018

3. Policy Summary

In developing an equality policy, we have been guided by the following principles:

- differences should be recognised and respected
- that all stakeholders are of equal value
- positive attitudes and relationships should be fostered, resulting in a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
- clear evidence of this policy in the practices of staff recruitment, retention and development
- the reduction and eventual removal of pre-existing inequalities and barriers
- wide consultation with, and involvement of, all stakeholders in the formulation of policy
- sound evidence is used as a base for our policy and practices

We will ensure that all groups of learners are treated of equal value.

Treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating them the same. Our policies, procedures and activities will not discriminate, but will take account of differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage that people may face in relation to their own choices and backgrounds.

Additionally, we intend that our policies, procedures and activities should promote positive attitudes and interactions between people in these groups, leading to mutual respect and good relations between all, and an absence of prejudice-related bullying and incidents.

We are committed to policies and procedures that benefit all employees, current and potential, in recruitment and promotion removing inequalities and barriers that may already exist between people of these groups.

We will engage with a range of groups and individuals to ensure that those who are affected by a policy or activity are consulted and involved in the design of new policies, and in the review of existing ones, consulting and involving, wherever possible, members within these groups.

We intend that our policies and activities should benefit society as a whole, both locally and nationally, by fostering greater social cohesion between, and encouraging greater participation in public life of, people in these groups. We recognise that the actions resulting from a policy statement such as this are what make a difference.

We will regularly review and renew this policy and our overarching statement pertaining to equality within Westgate Academy.

4. Scope and purpose

4.1 This policy applies to all stakeholders, pupils, employees, including volunteers, agency workers, consultants or self-employed contractors.

5. Responsibility for implementing the policy

5.1 Westgate Academy has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. The Trust has delegated day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review to the Headteacher.

6. Legal duties

6.1 As an organisation we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

6.2 The Equality Act 2010 was introduced to ensure protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of specific protected characteristics. A protected characteristic under the Act covers the groups listed below:

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex (including issues of transgender)
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership (for employees)
- Maternity and pregnancy

7. British values

7.1 Equality and diversity are characteristics promoted within Westgate Academy beliefs and values. All stakeholders will aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all students and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in a world where we value; individual liberty, democracy, the law, mutual respect and the tolerance of others.

Throughout their lives our pupils will meet, live and work with people of different cultures, religions, languages and ethnic origins. We must prepare our pupils for the preparation of living in a diverse society, which is why we are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone.

7.2 British values are promoted at various opportunities throughout our curriculum, including assembly schedules, throughout the academic year.

We offer and promote a broad and balanced curriculum which provides a vast range of subjects to ensure pupils explore and experience the responsibilities of Modern Britain. It actively promotes fundamental British values, and extends beyond the classroom via a wide range of visits and experiences, engaging them in extra-curricular activities

8. Aims and objectives

8.1 Westgate Academy is committed to equal opportunities and to preventing discrimination, victimisation, and harassment. In particular:

- no employee, pupil, governor, parent, volunteer or any other stakeholder shall suffer discrimination on the grounds of their sex, race, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability. (Discrimination)
- no employee, pupil, governor, parent, volunteer or any other stakeholder will be treated less favourably because of exercising his or her statutory rights. (Victimisation)
- no employee, pupil, governor, parent, volunteer or any other stakeholder will be subjected to unwanted, unwelcome, upsetting or embarrassing behaviours based on their sex, race, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability. (Harassment)
- it is the responsibility of all staff, pupils, and governors at every level of Westgate Academy to adhere to this Equal Opportunities Policy and to ensure it is effective
- Westgate Academy will provide a friendly and secure atmosphere for all pupils and staff
- the contributions of all members of the school, students, teaching and support staff should be valued and respected
- no form of harassment, whether religious, racial, sexual or any other sort will be tolerated or accepted
- DALP will show due regard for the principles of equal opportunities in the selection, promotion, deployment and training of staff
- the whole curriculum should take account of the issues of equal opportunities

8.2 To achieve our aims we will:

- publish and share our policy with all stakeholders of the Westgate Academy to show compliance with the Equality Duty
- reinforce our ethos of the value we place upon equality and diversity
- analyse appropriate data to ensure compliance with legislation
- challenge inappropriate behaviour that does not fulfil any equality commitment.

8.3 Success criteria

- pupils are aware of the impact of prejudice and understand their responsibility to prevent it
- staff are aware of the Single Equality Policy
- data is collated and analysed to monitor equality
- incidents are logged and reported

9. Roles and responsibility

9.1 Promoting equality is the responsibility of the stakeholders of Westgate Academy.

9.2 The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, ensuring that:

- all staff are aware of their responsibilities
- all staff are given appropriate training and support
- appropriate action is taken in cases of unlawful discrimination.

9.3 Our senior leadership team will:

- have day to day responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of the policy, providing regular reports on its progress and any significant incidents
- ensure the principles within this policy are embedded, integral to, and encompassed within all other policies at each academy
- ensure effectiveness of the policy by being involved in a 3 yearly review
- review the academy response to all allegations of inequality with regard to any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

9.4 All staff are expected to:

- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in and around the academy
- deal with, and report, any prejudice-related incidents that may occur
- plan and deliver curricular lessons that reflect the objectives in paragraph 6
- support students for whom English represents an additional language
- keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work.

9.5 Pupils are expected to:

- treat each other with respect and courtesy
- explore and value diversity with a healthy and positive approach
- speak out if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate language or behaviour, or feel that they have been treated unfairly.

10. Information and resources

10.1 We ensure that the content of this policy is known to all employees and governors of Westgate Academy and, as appropriate, to all pupils and their parents and carers.

10.2 All employees and governors have access to a selection of resources which discuss and explain concepts of equality, diversity and community cohesion in appropriate detail.

11. Religious observance

11.1 We respect the religious beliefs and practice of all employees, pupils and parents/carers, and comply with reasonable requests relating to religious observance and practice.

12. Staff development and training

12.1 We ensure that all Westgate Academy employees, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as cohorts, when appropriate.

13. Record keeping

13.1 Detailed records will be made to include decisions, action taken and the reasons for these. All records will be retained securely as mentioned above. Whilst we acknowledge that such allegations (as all others) may be false, malicious or misplaced, we also acknowledge that they may be founded. It is therefore essential that all allegations be investigated properly and in line with agreed procedures.

The following definitions will be used to determine the outcome of any alleged allegation:

- **Substantiated:** sufficient evidence to prove the allegation
- **Malicious:** sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive
- **False:** sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
- **Unsubstantiated:** insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence
- **Unfounded:** no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegations being made.

14. Supporting those involved

14.1 Westgate Academy has a duty of care to its employees and will provide effective support for anyone facing an allegation. Individuals should be informed of concerns or allegations as soon as possible and given an explanation of the likely course of action, unless there is an objection by the children's social care services or the police. The investigating officer will appoint a named representative to keep the person who is the subject of the allegation informed of the progress of the case and consider what other support is appropriate for the individual e.g. contact their trade union representative, if they have one, or a colleague for support, access to welfare counselling or medical advice. Westgate Academy will deal with any allegation of abuse made against a teacher, other member of staff, or volunteer, in

a quick, fair and consistent way in order to minimise the stress inherent in the situation, thus providing effective protection for the child, whilst simultaneously supporting the subject of the allegation.

15 Confidentiality

15.1 Westgate Academy will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity while an allegation is being investigated or considered. The Education Act 2002 introduced reporting restrictions preventing the publication of any material that may lead to the identification of a teacher who has been accused by, or on behalf of, a pupil from the same academy (where that identification would identify the teacher as the subject of the allegation).

The reporting restrictions apply until the point that the accused person is charged with an offence, or until the Secretary of State publishes information about an investigation or decision in a disciplinary case arising from the allegation.

16. Monitoring and evaluation

16.1 Westgate Academy collects, studies and uses data relating to the implementation of this policy, and may make adjustments to it as appropriate. In particular we collect, analyse and use data in relation to achievement, broken down according to disabilities and special educational needs, ethnicity, culture, language, religious affiliation, national origin/status, and gender.

17. Review of the policy

This policy is reviewed annually by the Trust, which will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively.