

Policy Title:	Equality and Diversity
Policy Description	To ensure that all individuals in the college are treated fairly and with dignity and respect.
Policy Number:	POL-005
Approved By:	Corporation
SLG Responsibility:	Diana Martin
Date Issued:	16.04.2018

Vision

Dudley College of Technology is committed to creating a culture in which equality of opportunity and diversity are promoted actively and in which unlawful discrimination is not tolerated.

The college recognises the real educational and business benefits of having a diverse community of staff and students and is working towards building and maintaining an environment which values and celebrates diversity.

Policy Statement

Dudley College of Technology believes in the principles of social justice and aims to ensure that:

- Individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect regardless of their age, gender, gender identity or re-assignment, marital status, caring responsibilities, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, disability, social status, religion or belief, union membership, political or other ideology or inappropriate distinction.
- It affords all individuals, students and employees the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- It promotes an inclusive and supportive environment for staff, students and visitors.
- It provides services that are accessible according to need.
- It recognises the varied contributions made by individuals from diverse backgrounds and wide ranging experiences.
- Effective partnerships with all parts of our community are created.

Scope

This policy applies to all business and academic staff, visiting lecturers, volunteers, students, service users and visitors to the college, together with those contracted to work at or for the college.

Aims of the Policy

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

- Promoting equality of opportunity, across all its activities.

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- Fostering and promoting good relations between people of a diverse background.
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Encouraging participation of all.

Underpinning principles

This policy is guided by the following principles, that:

- All staff, students and visitors should enjoy a safe environment free from unfair/unlawful discrimination including harassment, bullying or victimisation.
- All students and employees should have equal access to quality services that are made available by the college.
- All staff and students should have equal access to opportunities for personal, professional or academic training and development, career progression and promotion opportunities.
- All staff and students should be able to participate fully in the work and life of the college and celebrate its diversity.
- Staff and students at the college should reflect the diversity of talent, experience and skills from the local, national and international pool from which it draws its students and workforce.
- Positive action initiatives continue to be used to redress inequalities and unfair / unlawful discriminatory practice.

Responsibilities

All board members, management, staff and students are responsible for ensuring the college meets its legal obligations in respect of equal opportunities and maintains an environment where there is genuine inclusion and respect for diversity.

Individual members of the college are responsible for promoting equality of opportunity, contributing to an environment free of fear or intimidation and ensuring that their behaviour and actions do not amount to unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.

Visitors to the college, together with those contracted to work at or for the college will be expected to comply with this policy. Contractors or suppliers should also comply with equal opportunities legislation and if they are unable to demonstrate such compliance they should be excluded from consideration of the contract in question.

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The college recognises that it also has moral and social responsibilities that go beyond the legislation and it will contribute to the wider process of change through all aspects of its work and practices in order to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote Equality & Diversity.

Implementation of the Policy

The successful implementation of this policy relies on the mainstreaming of Equality & Diversity issues within the college's strategic plan, which in turn, is supported by operational plans of its key client groups, curriculum centres and support areas.

The college has also developed additional policies and procedures to support specific areas of Equality & Diversity such as inclusive learning, learning difficulties, mental health, bullying and harassment, staff development and student welfare.

For a full list of related documents please refer to associated policies, procedures and codes of practice listed within this policy.

The college will assess the impact of this policy on staff and students to ensure it does not have an adverse impact for different groups of people, primarily in terms of race, gender and disability, as well as regarding age, religion/belief and sexual orientation.

Breach of the Policy

The college will take seriously any instances or alleged incidents of non-adherence to the Equality & Diversity policy by students, staff or visitors. Such instances or allegations will be investigated and where appropriate will be considered under the relevant disciplinary procedure for staff or students.

With regard to any breach of the policy by visitors, the college will take appropriate action in relation to the nature of the incident.

Complaints

Any complaint will be taken seriously and dealt with in a timely and sensitive manner as indicated in the How Are We Performing procedure (complaints, compliments and suggestions) and in accordance with the relevant grievance and disciplinary procedures.

Associated Documents

[POL-013 – Human Resources](#)

[POL-016 – Safeguarding](#)

[POL-028 – Information Security](#)

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Anti-Bullying (Students)

Cross College Support for Learners with Disabilities/Special Support Requirements

Equality and Diversity in Action

Family Schemes

Harassment for Employees

Initial Assessment – English and Maths

Learning Support for Learners with English, Maths and Dyslexia Needs on Learner

Responsive and Employer Responsive Programmes

Key Request>Returns

Maternity – Staff and Students Who Are New or Expectant Mothers

Recruitment and Selection

Safeguarding (Children and Adults)

Students with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities

Suicidal Intentions (Disclosure of)

SS003 - Student Mental Health

Bullying and Harassment Staff Guidance (QS/060)

Disability Statement (QS/011)

Learning Contract (QS/082)

Key Request Form (QS/088)

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years y or earlier should it become necessary by the Vice Principal.

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