



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Who is this policy for?

All employees (past – for the purposes of providing references, present and future – job applicants), all workers, contractors and sub-contractors, consultants, agency workers, employees seconded to the Trust from other employers, AAB members, volunteers, Trustees and Members, pupils of our academies/schools and their parents/carers and other members of the communities we serve.

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3

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Revision History

REVISION	DATE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
1	23/11/2016	H. Ruddle	New Trust policy
2	September 2017	H. Ruddle	
3	1 December 2021	H. Ruddle	Updated/revised to reflect Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and modernised/appropriate terms used, in consultation with JNC.

1. INTRODUCTION

Delta Academies Trust is committed to ensure that diversity and equality are effectively incorporated into decision making and considered when recruiting, developing and leading staff as well as when developing and implementing effective teaching and learning for children through our curriculum.

This policy celebrates difference whilst also framing our commitment to create an inclusive culture, where people can come to work being themselves and feeling a strong sense of belonging. We believe that when we ensure a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture, we will amplify our effectiveness in forging strong partnerships and delivering positive impact for children.

This policy has regard for the following policies, guidance and advice (DfE documents and legislation accessible from the Government website and Delta/Academy policies from SharePoint):

- Equality Act 2010
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- DfE Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
- Academy Admission Policy
- Academy Care, Support Guidance and Behaviour Policy
- Academy Uniform Policy
- HR06 Delta Bullying and Harassment Policy
- HR01 Delta Disciplinary Policy
- HR05 Delta Grievance Policy
- HR04 Delta Safer Recruitment Policy
- HR27 Delta Staff Dress Code Guidance
- HR15 Delta Staff Code of Conduct

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. Equality

The term 'equality' means that everyone should be treated fairly. It recognises that everyone has individual needs and that they have the right to have their needs respected.

2.2. Diversity

The term 'diversity' has many definitions, but they all tend to embrace the notion that our background, knowledge, skills, aptitudes and experiences are all different and that our differences should be valued and appreciated.

2.3. Inclusion

The term 'inclusion' is the overarching culture in which the mix of people can come to work, feel comfortable and confident to be themselves, and delivers the needs of the Trust. Inclusion ensures that everyone feels valued and importantly, adds value.

2.4. Unconscious Bias

The term 'unconscious bias' describes how we are all shaped by our prior experiences and the social and cultural values that we absorb throughout our life. We all hold deeply ingrained assumptions and beliefs and create our own internal stereotypes.

Most people feel more comfortable around people like themselves (similar age, background or culture) and unconscious bias is a natural result of this, but it can cause unintentional prejudice. Unconscious bias can affect our behaviour in many ways, but if the bias is against a protected characteristic it could lead to illegal discrimination. It can affect recruitment, progression, recognition and much more. Types of unconscious bias are:

Affinity bias – Leads us to prefer people we feel a connection with.

Halo bias – Leads us to rate a person more highly overall because they have one single characteristic or achievement.

Horns bias – Leads us to not consider a person because of one quality that we don't like about them (opposite of halo bias).

3. AIMS

We strive to create a work culture that actively learns from diversity in order to strengthen the impact we seek to achieve. We recognise that people from different backgrounds and experiences bring valuable insights, diverse thoughts and a wealth of abilities.

An inclusive workplace culture is where you can come to work being the authentic version of yourself and feeling respected and valued. It is a culture supported by equal access to opportunities, a culture characterised by acceptance and a sense of someone "having your back" and where the diversity of our team amplifies our ability to drive impact.

We also strive to create a work culture that builds on our passion for learning, our values and our ways of working.

A work culture that builds on a sense of belonging is where you can come to work feeling you are part of something bigger than yourself, and where the role of each of us serve to enable our goal is what connects us. Our passion for learning is what unites us, and our heritage is what shapes us.

At Delta, we celebrate differences and strive to create a strong sense of belonging, while retaining our core purpose that is firmly grounded in our vision and values.

4. EQUALITY ACT 2010

The Equality Act 2010 came into effect in October 2010. It consolidated and streamlined existing legislation and strengthened the law to support progress on equality.

The Equality Act 2010 details a list of 'protected characteristics' which are grounds upon which it is unlawful to discriminate against people. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Sex
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Religion or belief (or lack thereof)
- Pregnancy and maternity

The Trust will seek to identify and act upon any unfair or unlawful discrimination which denies someone opportunities due to a protected characteristic.

The Trust will provide reasonable adjustments, wherever possible, to remove any barriers due to disability, including providing alternative formats where needed.

5. TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is unequal or differential treatment which leads to one person being treated more or less favourably than others are or would be treated in the same or similar circumstances on the grounds of a protected characteristic.

5.1. Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination is where someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic they have or are thought to have (perceptive discrimination), or because they associate with someone who has a protected characteristic (associative discrimination).

5.2. Indirect discrimination

Indirect discrimination can happen when there's a condition, rule, policy or a practice in the organisation that applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic.

5.3. Association discrimination

Association discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably because of their association with another person who has a protected characteristic.

5.4. Perceptive discrimination

Perceptive discrimination occurs when a person directly discriminates against another person because the person thinks they possess a particular protected characteristic. This applies even if the person being discriminated against does not have the protected characteristic.

5.5. Victimisation

Victimisation is when an employee is treated badly because they have made or supported a complaint or raised a grievance under the Equality Act, or because they are suspected of doing so.

If, following an investigation, it is found that an employee has maliciously made or supported an untrue complaint, they will not be protected under the Equality Act.

5.6. Harassment

Harassment is defined in law as unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.

6. THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY (PSED)

The PSED, introduced by the Equality Act 2010, applies to all public bodies including academies and extends to all protected characteristics.

The duty requires us to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other behaviour that is unlawful
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic, as well as those who do not share one

In order to demonstrate relevant and proportionate consideration is being given to the above, we must ensure:

- Decision makers are aware of and have due regard of the duty when making a decision or taking action and must assess the potential impact on any particular group
- Policy developers should consider potential impact on any particular group before and during this process
- The PSED is integrated into our functions seriously and with an open mind.

As part of our commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in the Trust, and in accordance with the PSED, we will:

- Publish our objectives and update these at least every four years
- Share information annually to demonstrate our progress against each objective, which may include the outcomes of our Equality Impact Assessments.

6.1. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that policies, procedures and practices within the Trust are fair to all people. Where any unfairness is highlighted, the EIA will help to identify what changes can be made, what cannot be changed and how improvements can be made.

The EIA document will also provide evidence that the Trust has given due regard to the PSED.

7. PURPOSE

Our purpose is to:

- Provide equality, fairness and respect for all in our employment, whether temporary, permanent, part time or full time
- Not unlawfully discriminate because of the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics 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
- Oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination. This includes in pay and benefits, terms and conditions of employment, dealing with grievances and discipline, dismissal, redundancy, leave for parents, requests for flexible working, and selection for employment, promotion, training or other developmental opportunities

8. COMMITMENT

We are committed to:

- Actively explore and challenge our unconscious biases, which if unchallenged, will limit our decisions, behaviour and actions to what we are primed to do or how we normally see things
- Create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity, acceptance and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued
- Take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, customers, suppliers, visitors, the public and any others in the course of the Trust's activities
- 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 Trust
- Decisions concerning staff being based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act)
- Foster appropriate spaces and competencies to engage in dialogue, sharing our own experiences, be compassionate to the experience of others, listen actively, stay curious and learn from each other
- Review employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also updated them and the policy to take account of changes in the law

- Ensure the entire employee life cycle is fair and that our employee related processes do not treat people differently based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, etc. Meaning our recruitment is consistent with the diversity we seek to promote, that our performance and development process gives individuals the ability to thrive and perform being who we are, and that we continuously build capabilities to value and grow personally and professionally within a diverse environment in order to succeed together
- Monitor the make-up of the workforce regarding information such as age, gender, 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 policy
- Create a strong sense of belonging among Delta employees building on our commonalities and shared goal of 'Changing Lives'.

9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff should demonstrate behaviour that is inclusive of diversity and mindful of unconscious biases. As such, staff conduct should help the Trust provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination.

All staff should always consider diversity in their daily duties, be mindful of unconscious biases, be open to feedback about their own biases, ensure they are aware of this policy and support their colleagues in being inclusive. Our leaders will help to role model this behaviour and encourage open dialogue regarding diversity and unconscious biases and how these influence the effectiveness of our work.

All staff should understand they, as well as the Trust, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, pupils, parents, visitors, suppliers and the public.

Staff should recognise that if not acted upon a continuous lack of inclusion (exclusion) can become discrimination. Therefore, staff should also be familiar with the Trust's Bullying and Harassment Policy, which is available on SharePoint, as this outlines the Trust's approach to preventing and managing behaviour such as harassment, bullying, victimisation or discrimination.

Where staff experience attitudes, behaviour, structures or processes that are inconsistent with this policy, they are encouraged to discuss this within the situation it has arisen, if possible, or bring it to the attention of their line manager, HR or Compliance so that possible actions can be considered for individuals or the Trust. If

required, reference should be made to the Trust's Grievance Policy (available on SharePoint).

If someone feels offended by another person's behaviour/conduct, it should not be assumed that there was negative intent behind their actions. It is important that the offended person has the opportunity to explain why they felt the words or behaviour was offensive to them and for the other person to actively listen to understand their perspective. Even in circumstances where the person did not intend to offend, these interactions provide opportunities to learn and grow.

In summary, we should all:

- Comply with the law and the Trust's policies
- Treat everyone with respect and dignity
- Not make derogatory comments, unfairly discriminate or act in a way that might cause distress or embarrassment to others, whether intentionally or not
- Not engage in harassment or bullying behaviour
- Respect other's beliefs
- Report inappropriate behaviour immediately

10. TRAINING

As part of our commitment, we will ensure managers and other employees are trained about their rights and responsibilities under the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

All staff will receive equality, diversity and inclusion training as part of their induction and at regular intervals thereafter, which will include training modules accessed via the Trust's online training provider, to ensure that staff understand what is expected of them during their employment and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles.

Training records of all completed staff training will be maintained at academy level for academy-based staff and at Trust level for all centrally appointed staff.

11. SUSPECTED BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Suspected breaches of this policy will be dealt with as misconduct under the Trust's Disciplinary Policy. Following an investigation, appropriate action will be taken, if required. Where serious breaches are found, this could amount to Gross Misconduct and could lead to summary dismissal (dismissal without notice).

12. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Through monitoring and review, the Trust will

- Assess how the equality, diversity and inclusion policy and any supporting action plans are working in practice
- Review the policy and plans annually and consider and take action to address any issues raised

APPENDIX A – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE



Equality Impact Assessment

Insert title of policy / initiative / service

1. INTRODUCTION

To fulfil the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) we must have due regard to considerations under the Equality Act 2010, whenever significant decisions are being made or policies developed, giving thought to equality implications for people with particular protected characteristics.

This document ensures that the Trust does not unlawfully discriminate against any person, especially those with protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

2. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Policy / initiative / service to be assessed:		Department carrying out the assessment	
Who is responsible for the implementation of the policy / initiative / service?		Who is involved in the EIA?	Insert name(s) and job title(s)
What are the aims / objectives / expected outcomes of the policy / initiative / service?		Who is intended to benefit from this policy / initiative / service?	
Date of assessment		Date of next review	

Outline in the following sections the potential risks and impacts on employees (and other relevant groups, as appropriate), specifying any controls currently in place to address and mitigate these impacts. Insert any statistics available to identify who is most affected by the policy / initiative / service. Document all impacts, both negative and positive.

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Age (younger, working age, older or particular age group)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive for younger and older employees? • What barriers may restrict access to the target audience? • What communication methods are you using? Are they suitable for the age group? • Are the timings of any proposed activity likely to exclude/include certain age groups? • Resting facilities (i.e., chairs)? • Appropriateness of materials and/or images? • Caring responsibilities? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Disability (physical, sensory, long-term health condition, hidden)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to people with a disability? • Physical access i.e. stairs and steps to and within facilities and no accessible alternatives, narrow or heavy doors etc • Transport links • Accessible toilets • Personal carers/support • Interpreter • Hearing loop systems • Provide alternative formats for communication such as text messaging to ensure access • Information about alternative formats and how to request it • Subtitles on DVDs, YouTube clips, videos, etc • Is there flexibility in how, when and where people with a disability can access information/service? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Gender re-assignment / identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on gender re-assignment / identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to trans, non-binary people and those who have an alternative gender identity? • Are unisex changing facilities available? If not, are facilities suitable for those transitioning? • Is language used appropriately, in particular are appropriate pronouns used? • How can you ensure your approach is inclusive towards this audience? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on marriage and civil partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to people who are married or in a civil partnership? • Is there the possibility of discrimination for individuals because they are single, divorced, separated, living together, married or in a civil partnership? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Pregnancy and maternity (pregnancy, maternity leave, breast feeding)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on pregnancy and maternity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to people who are pregnant, on maternity leave or shared parental leave or breast feeding? • Toilet facilities, are baby changing rooms in male, female and unisex facilities? • Childcare arrangements? • Will adverse weather or the environment exclude pregnant people or those on maternity or shared parental leave? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Race (Ethnic origin, nationality, colour)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on race:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to people of all relevant nationalities and minority ethnic groups? • Cultural differences? • Some people who have migrated to the UK may lack trust of public organisations? • Is English their primary language? • Where English is not spoken, provider of interpreter/language service line? • Is information provided written in plain English and without jargon and in other languages where appropriate? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Religion or belief system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on religion or belief system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to people with religious affiliations or belief systems? • May wish to avoid conflict where possible with religious/cultural festivals and holidays • Religious and cultural festivals may be suitable platform to target some people • Religious and cultural sensitivity (shaking hands, male/female interactions etc) • Appropriateness of materials • Time off for religious needs • Dress code/uniform policy • Prayer facilities • Dietary requirements • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Sex (Men or Women)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Considerations for impact on sex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to men and/or women? • Toilet facilities, baby changing rooms, etc. • Will gender specific environments promote inclusion or exclusion? • Will the timings of any proposed activity likely exclude/include men or women? • Will any venue/environment chosen to host an activity widen access for men or women? • Does any language and/or images promote inclusion for both men and women? • Is it gender neutral or gender specific? • Are you using specific communication methods to target men and/or women? • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

Protected characteristic or Equality theme	It is assessed that this could have a:			Impact comments:	Reasonable Adjustments Identified:	Negative Impact: Please provide details as to why reasonable adjustments are not being made
	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact			
Sexual orientation (LGBTQ+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Considerations for impact on sexual orientation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this inclusive to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer people (LGBTQ+)? • Recognition and respect of individual's sexuality • Recognition of same sex relationships • Terminology and language used • Maintenance of confidentiality about an individual's sexuality • Avoid stereotypes and be non-judgemental • How do you intend to mitigate any risks you have identified? 						

What positive outcomes or changes will be taken as a result of any points identified by this EIA?

Following the implementation of the policy / initiative / service, provide an overview in the box below of those who were involved or affected by the policy / initiative / service and any relevant comments or complaints that were received in terms of equality and inclusion. This information should then be used to address any concerns and inform any further review processes.