



Equality Policy

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1 Purpose of the policy

Mulberry UTC is an inclusive school in a diverse and thriving community. We are proud to celebrate this diversity and to champion equality.

Every student, staff member, parent/carer and all other members of the UTC's community are valued and respected. We aim to embed the values and ethos that will develop individuals to become positive, respectful and successful citizens within the community and throughout their lives. We are committed to overcoming disadvantage, tackling discrimination and fostering positive relationships.

This policy sets out how Mulberry UTC meets these aims and supports all students and staff in achieving their potential academically, professionally and personally. It also explains how the school is meeting its Public Sector Duty to promote equality as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

2 Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty is made up of a general equality duty and two specific duties. The general duty requires us to have due regard for the need to:

- a) **eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- b) **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- c) **foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The Act defines protected characteristics as:

- sex



- race
- disability
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy or maternity
- marriage and civil partnership
- age

It is unlawful for the UTC to discriminate against a student or prospective student, staff member or prospective staff member, by treating them less favourably because of one or more of these characteristics¹.

The Act's two specific duties require us to:

- a) publish information to show compliance with the Equality Duty;
- b) publish Equality Objectives at least every 4 years which are specific and measurable.

3 Principles

Mulberry UTC fully embraces the Equality Duty both in law and in spirit. In order to fulfil its obligations in this area, the UTC is guided by the following principles.

- All students, staff and members of the wider school community are of equal value regardless of their background or whether they share one or more of the 'protected characteristics'.
- We recognise and respect difference and challenge prejudice and discrimination. Treating people equally does not necessarily involve treating people the same, and our policies, procedures and practices take account of differences in background, culture, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender assignment.
- We foster and promote positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and community. Our policies, procedures and practices promote inclusion, positive interaction and mutual respect. Bullying and harassment of any kind is never tolerated.
- We are consultative in our practices; appropriately involving and engaging members of the school community when change is proposed.
- Our staff are specifically trained in Equality and Diversity Awareness.

4 Implementation

- UTC staff consider equality implications before they develop policy and take decisions, not as an afterthought, and they keep all policy under review on a continuing basis. The Equality Duty is integrated into all the UTC's functions, and the monitoring and analysis necessary to comply with the duty is carried out seriously, rigorously and with an open mind.

¹Although a person's age is a protected characteristic for adults, this does not apply to school students who may legitimately be treated differently as a result of being a particular age or in a particular age group.



- Our admissions and recruitment arrangements are fair, transparent and informed by clear guidance so that there is no risk of discrimination. We maintain an accurate record, when possible and appropriate, of the protected characteristics of our students, employees, UTC Local Governing Body members, Trustees and applicants for jobs. This data ensures we know the needs of our school population well and informs our Equality Objectives, planning and monitoring focuses. Appendices A and B give the current context in relation to UTC students and employees.
- We strive to narrow all gaps in achievement affecting students from particular cultural and ethnic backgrounds, those who belong to lower-income households, who have a disability or who have special educational needs. We aim to provide appropriate and varied learning, teaching and support to ensure all students make excellent progress regardless of their needs, dispositions, aptitudes or circumstances. We collect data and monitor progress and outcomes of different groups of students, which prompts action to close any achievement gaps that become evident. We publish an analysis of standards reached by different groups at the end of each key stage.
- We closely monitor data on absence from school and exclusions for evidence of over-representation of different groups and take action promptly to address concerns.
- We actively promote equality and diversity through the curriculum, particularly through abroad and challenging Personal Social and Health Education programme. We endeavour to present diversity through our displays, resources, events, contributors and role models. We provide opportunities for students to listen to a range of opinions, empathise with different experiences and to engage in social action. We are alert and proactive about the potentially damaging impact of negative language in matters such as race, gender, disability and sexuality.
- Our focus extends beyond academic success. Our students participate in innovative challenges and projects and, whatever their interest, passion or talent, we strive to ensure all students take part in initiatives involving esteemed national and global partners, universities and businesses. Monitoring allows us to target under-participating groups.
- The UTC's plan for the use of Pupil Premium funding enables us to counter the effects of disadvantage on progress and participation and, in particular, creates opportunities for students to broaden their experience.
- Our Behaviour Management Policy outlines our expectations of both students and staff in their interactions with each other. Prejudice-related incidents are identified, recorded and dealt with, and reported to the UTC Local Governing Body. Through the Student Pledge, drawn up by the students and staff, students are encouraged to model the positive values of the UTC at school, at home and within their local community.
- We recognise that people with disabilities may have different needs from those of who do not have a disability. This is always taken into account when developing and implementing decisions, policies and services and may lead to reasonable adjustments. A bi-annual Accessibility Audit helps us ensure the accessibility of our provision and facilities to students, staff and visitors.
- Our Inclusion Policy aims to meet the needs of students with a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision. Our Examinations Policy sets out procedures relating to access arrangements that ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.



- Our professional development programme for staff has a strong focus on equalities issues. It is also designed to ensure equality of access and a profile of participation that reflects the full staff community. We are attentive to the need to ensure that all staff gain from professional development and do not experience blocks to employment or promotion opportunities.
- As an employer, we are committed to equal opportunities principles and we monitor and actively promote equality in all aspects of staffing and employment. We strive to eliminate discrimination and harassment. We observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment and retention and all appointments and promotions are made on the basis of merit and ability. We also aim to increase the extent to which staffing, in all roles and at all levels, reflects the diversity of our community. We have specific policies to address staff conduct, discipline, grievances and dignity at work.
- The UTC's Complaints Policy sets out the procedures through which we handle complaints, including those that relate to any experience or perception of inequality or discrimination, with the specific aim of facilitating prompt and, where possible, informal resolution that precludes the need for escalation.
- We regularly gather feedback and responses from students, staff and parents on their experience of the UTC's provision, practice and policy and endeavour to involve a wide-cross-section of our community in the school's development and improvement.

5 Responsibilities

We expect all members of the school community and all visitors to support our commitment to equality and meeting the requirements of the Equality Act. We provide training, guidance and information to enable them to do this.

The UTC Local Governing Body and the Trust Board are responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. The Trust's Committees keep relevant aspects of the UTC's commitment to the Equality Duty under review. The Trust Board biennially reviews this policy and its impact.

The UTC Principal and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for maintaining an ethos in the school that upholds this policy and the Equality Duty. They are also responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and implemented by all staff and for making students and staff aware of its commitments and expectations.

Leadership Team members are responsible for addressing the policy actively within their areas of responsibility and for collating and analysing relevant monitoring evidence.

All staff are responsible for acting on this policy consistently in their day-to-day professional responsibilities and for supporting students and their families to share the UTC's commitment to equality.

6 Equality Objectives

Mulberry UTC has committed to the following over-arching objectives for equality. In line with the specific duty of the Equality Act 2010, these are translated into specific and measurable objectives



relevant to current school improvement priorities at each review of this policy. These are included in Appendix C and feed forward into the School Improvement Plan.

The UTC commits to:

- **giving active consideration to equality issues**, including the potential effects on different people when developing and implementing strategies, policies and procedures. This will include consulting appropriate groups within the UTC community to ensure due consideration is given to equality issues when developing policies and procedures.
- **ensuring appropriate training** for those responsible for developing strategies, policies and procedures and putting them into practice, and ensuring such people are made aware of their obligations in relation to the Equality Duty. This UTC will ensure that all those with line management responsibilities receive an appropriate level of training to raise awareness of equality issues and all staff receive diversity awareness training.
- **empowering managers, workers and other relevant parties** by providing appropriate and necessary information. For example, the UTC will ensure external job vacancies are accessible to all sectors of the community through transparent and open recruitment and selection processes, and through the provision of appropriate information to ensure all those with suitable skills feel able to apply.
- **monitoring and reviewing** the impact of our policies and procedures, and taking appropriate corrective action where concerns are identified. Part of the purpose of monitoring and reviewing will be to ensure that policies and procedures are consistently and fairly applied. We will, for example, monitor continuing professional development for staff within the UTC to ensure it is accessible to all, based on professional needs that are consistent with the UTC's aims, as well as monitoring student progress to ensure students are on track and receive the required level of support.
- **improving attendance of students from particular groups** to ensure accessibility to an education, even if this means phasing a return or spending time in the inclusion section of the UTC before returning to the classroom. It will also involve working in partnership with students, parents/carers and other agencies as appropriate.
- **improving knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable students to appreciate and value difference and diversity**, for example by increasing understanding between students from different faith communities.
- **reducing prejudice-related bullying the use of derogatory language** in order to ensure the safety of all students and to encourage students to become citizens who demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of equality and diversity.
- **engagement** with our students, parents and the wider community to ensure that we demonstrate our commitment to sharing the responsibility for raising well-educated and civic-minded students, as we feel this responsibility cannot rest solely with schools.

7 Disseminating the Policy



We ensure the whole school community knows about our commitment to equality through all relevant communications, interactions, practice and policy.

This policy, including the Equality Objectives and data, is available on the school website and in the staff handbook, electronically and in hard copy. Its principles, expectations and commitments are included in induction for new staff, students and parents and built into curriculum and extra-curricular activities for students and professional development for staff throughout the year.

8 Review of the Policy

This Equality Policy will be reviewed by the Trust Board after a year in the first instance and thereafter biennially. A monitoring report prepared by Senior Leaders will inform the review.

In addition, progress towards the specific Equality Objectives in Appendix C will be monitored and evaluated as part of the School Improvement Plan.

We have a rolling programme for reviewing all UTC policies and use the questions below to assess their potential impact on equality and diversity, so that we can ensure appropriate focus is given.

- To what extent does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community – and what is the significance of the impact?
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Does the policy relate to functions that have been identified through engagement as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the policy relate to the UTC's equality objectives?



APPENDIX A: UTC Context: Students

1 This section aims to provide relevant information on the composition of the student population with specific relevance to their protected characteristics and other areas. Further information is being collected to provide an insight into the full scope of protected characteristics.

2 Number of students on roll: 933

3 Sex

	Students	Percentage
Female		
Male		
Total		

4 Race (Ethnicity)

Code	Students	Percentage	Subgroup Description
AAFR			African Asian
ABAN			Bangladeshi
AIND			Indian
AOTH			Any other Asian background
APKN			Pakistani
BAFR			African: Unspecified
BAOF			Other Black African
BCRB			Black Caribbean
BSOM			Black Somali
CHNE			Chinese
MAOE			Mixed: Asian and any other background
MBOE			Mixed: Black and any other background
MOTM			Other Mixed
MWAS			Mixed: White and Asian
MWBA			Mixed: White/Black African
MWBC			Mixed: White/Black Caribbean
MWOE			Mixed: White/Other
OARA			Arab Other
OIRQ			Iraqi
OLAM			Latin/South/Central American
OMRC			Moroccan
OOEG			Other Ethnic Group
OOTH			Any other ethnic background
OVIE			Vietnamese
OYEM			Yemini
REFU			Refused
WBRI			White British
WENG			White English
WEUR			White European
WITA			White Italian
WOTW			Any other White background
WOWB			White
WTUK			Turkish
WTUR			Turkish/Turkish Cypriot



5 SEN

	Students	Percentage
SEN Provision – Education, health and care plan		
SEN Provision – SEN support		
Total number of students with SEN		
No special educational needs		
Total		

6 Disability/SEN need type for students on roll with SEN

Impairment	Number of Students	Percentage
SPLD Specific Learning Difficulty		
MLD Moderate Learning Difficulty		
SLD Severe Learning Difficulty		
SEMH Social, emotional and mental health		
SLCN Speech, Language and Communication Needs		
HI Hearing Impairment		
VI Visual Impairment		
PD Physical Disability		
ASD Autistic Spectrum Disorder		
OTH Other Difficulty / Disability		
Total		

7 Bursary funding awarded to all 16-19 year olds

Sixth Form Details	Numbers
Total students aged 16 and over	
Awarded a discretionary bursary	
Percentage of Sixth Form Population awarded a discretionary bursary	

8 Other Student Groups

The below information provides further details on the following group of students:

Students with English as an additional language		
	Numbers	Percentage
Students with English as a first language		
Students with English as an additional language		
Total		



APPENDIX B: UTC Context: Employees

1 As the UTC employs less than 150 employees, there is no obligation to publish information about them. However, this section aims to provide relevant information on the composition of the employee population with specific relevance to their protected characteristics and other areas. Further information will be collected over time to provide an insight into the full scope of protected characteristics.

2 Number of employed staff:

3 Sex

	Employees	Percentage
Female		
Male		
Total		

4 Race (Ethnicity)

Ethnic Code	Employee	Percentage	Subgroup Description
ABAN			Bangladesh
AIND			Indian
AOTH			Any other Asian background
APKN			Pakistani
BAFR			African: Unspecified
BCRB			Black Caribbean
BOTH			Black Other
MOTH			Mixed: Other background
MWAS			Mixed: White and Asian
MWBC			Mixed: White/Black Caribbean
NKO			Not known
NOBT			Info not obtained
WBRI			White British
WIRI			White Irish
WOTH			White Other
Total			

5 Disability

	Employee Numbers	Percentage
Employee with a disability		
Employees with no disability		
Information not obtained		
Total		



APPENDIX C: Equality objectives 2017-20

Public Sector Equality Duty	Objective	Success criteria	Actions	Monitoring the impact
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	<p>Ensure equal representation of different groups, including both male and female, in the non-formal activities and opportunities in the UTC.</p> <p>Highlight the importance of equality and anti-discrimination issues through awareness-raising initiatives, events and campaigns, led by students where possible.</p>	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process
Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	<p>Ensure that achievement gaps between different student groups do not arise, by carefully monitoring the progress of all student groups, particularly those where issues exist nationally e.g. students with SEN.</p> <p>Ensure a diverse teaching and non-teaching staff and leadership profile so that it is representative of our community.</p>	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process
Foster good relations between different groups	<p>Ensure the curriculum upholds our equality aims and principles, including a focus on resources, visible role models, access to and uptake of a range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Introduce clear and consistent operational routines so that all students and staff experience a consistently respectful and calm environment and play their part in building excellent relationships</p>	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process	tbc through the SIP process