



Northern Lights
LEARNING TRUST

Equality Information and Objectives Statement

Review Date: Spring 2021

Next Review Due: Spring 2022

Person in Charge: CEO

Link to Director: Chair of Board

Northern Lights Learning Trust

Signed off by: Chair of Board

Date from: Spring 21

Review Date: Spring 22

Pastoral Care/Spiritual Development

The quality of relationships between all members of school staff and pupils, and the relationship with parents and carers is the area that is most commonly associated with the ethos of the schools in our Trust. It is expressed in the terms of sharing and caring. In the Church schools in our Trust, we follow the teachings of:

‘Love your neighbour as yourself’ – Matthew 22:39.

‘This is my commandment: love each other’ - John 15:17.

In our schools we believe every pupil is an individual who is valued for who they are. We have a series of overlapping networks of relationships, which includes governors, staff, children, parents, church members, and members of the community which the school seeks to serve. Our pastoral work will strive to meet the significant challenge to create and maintain such networks including in our Church schools in ways which reflect the Gospel. Those who are in leadership roles, which includes all who have a particular responsibility, ensure that by their personal example they set the highest standards expected.

It is from this premise that both Christian and spiritual love will pervade all aspects of life at Northern Lights Learning Trust. It will influence how we reward and teach discipline. It will affect how we value work and the achievements of pupils and staff. It will be seen in the way in which the school environments are created and cared for, in the way in which the needs of pupils, parents, and community are met, and in the way in which teaching and non-teaching staff work together effectively as a team. Pastoral care pervades all aspects of school life and therefore will be reflected in the way the schools are organised and the policies are written and implemented.

Equality information and objectives statement

This Equality information and objective statement will be reviewed every 4 years and was last reviewed spring 2021.

Opening statement

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Trust's general duties, with regards to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination.
- Fostering good relationships.
- Advancing equality of opportunity.

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

- Sex.
- Age.
- Race.
- Disability.
- Religion or belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.
- Pregnancy or maternity.
- Marriage and civil partnership.

We aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality and diversity, and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff. Our school is committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity.

Aims to eradicate discrimination

We believe that a greater level of success from pupils and staff can be achieved by realising the uniqueness of individuals. Creating a prejudice-free environment where individuals feel confident and at ease is a commitment of the school. **This environment will be achieved by:**

- Being respectful.
- Always treating all members of the school community fairly.
- Developing an understanding of diversity and the benefits it can have.
- Adopting an inclusive attitude.
- Adopting an inclusive curriculum that is accessible to all.
- Encouraging compassion and open-mindedness.

We are committed to having a balanced and fair curriculum. We believe that our pupils should be exposed to ideas and concepts that may challenge their understanding, to help ensure that pupils learn to become more accepting and inclusive of others. Challenging and controversial concepts will be delivered in a way that prevents discrimination and promotes inclusive attitudes. We will also respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from certain classes which pose conflicts to their own beliefs.

Dealing with prejudice

We do not tolerate any form of prejudice-related incident. Whether direct or indirect, we treat discrimination against all members of our school with the utmost severity. When an incident is reported, through our thorough reporting procedure, our school is devoted to ensuring appropriate action is taken and a resolution is put into place which is both fair and firm.

Our pupils are taught to be:

- Understanding of others.
- Celebratory of cultural diversity.
- Eager to reach their full potential.
- Inclusive.
- Aware of what constitutes discriminatory behaviour.

The Trust's employees will not:

- Discriminate against any member of the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community unfairly.

The Trust's employees will:

- Promote diversity and equality.
- Encourage and adopt an inclusive attitude.
- Lead by example.

Equality and dignity in the workplace

We do not discriminate against staff with regards to their:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender reassignment.
- Marital or civil partner status.
- Pregnancy or maternity.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.

Equality of opportunity and non-discrimination extends to the treatment of all members of the Trust community. All staff members are obliged to act in accordance with the Trust's various policies relating to equality.

We will guarantee that no redundancy is the result of direct or indirect prejudice. All disciplinary procedures are non-prejudicial, whether they result in warnings, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action.

Closing Statement

Prejudice is not tolerated and we are continuously working towards a more accepting and respectful environment for the school communities in our Trust.

The trust's Equality Policy further outlines the trust's policies regarding equality.