



## FRIERN BARNET SCHOOL

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

**Friern Barnet School is committed to equality and valuing diversity and actively supports practices that promote genuine equality of opportunity for all staff and young people.**

#### 1. Introduction

Friern Barnet School is committed to promoting a positive and diverse culture in which all staff and young people are valued and supported to fulfil their potential irrespective of their age, disability, race, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We recognise our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and are committed to promoting the equality and diversity of all those we work with, especially our employees, pupils, young people and visitors. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination, bullying and harassment and will make every effort to comply with the requirements of the Act and its subsequent provisions.

The following groups have been identified as key recipients in terms of the provision of this statement:

- Are being looked after or on the edge of Care
- Have Special Educational Needs / Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- Are excluded or at risk of exclusion from school
- Are from a minority group, including those from Gypsy, Roma, Traveller background
- Have English as an additional language
- Are missing in education
- Have ill health, including hospitalisation, affecting attendance at school
- Are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Have drug or alcohol abuse
- Are school age / teenage parents
- Are young carers
- Are offending or at risk of offending
- Have mental health issues
- Are in receipt of free school meals
- Live in areas of deprivation
- Are Able and Ambitious
- Are gender questioning or going through transition
- Are lesbian, gay or bisexual

This policy and all associated procedures apply to all staff (including volunteers and students on placement), young people and visitors and should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Acceptable Use Policies (staff and students)
- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Failure to comply with these policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action.

Discriminatory treatment, bullying or harassment of staff or young people by visitors will also not be tolerated.

## **2. Compliance**

Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 is the responsibility of all members of staff. Friern Barnet School does not condone any act of direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Any breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

## **3. Definitions**

The Equality Act covers nine protected characteristics upon which discrimination is unlawful:

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

For further information on types of unlawful discrimination see Appendix 1.

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all equality and diversity matters at Friern Barnet School is the Headteacher, Mr Simon Horne. For further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Designated Person see Appendix 2. The Equality and Diversity Lead is Ms Kathy Newey.

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Treat colleagues, young people and visitors with dignity and respect; and avoid behaving in any manner that may give rise to claims of discrimination, harassment or victimisation;
- Support and participate in any measures introduced to promote equality and diversity;
- Actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage in accordance with their responsibilities;
- Report any issues associated with equality and diversity in accordance with this policy.

It is important to appreciate that an employee is personally responsible for their own acts of discrimination, harassment or victimisation carried out during their employment, whether or not the employer is also liable. Any attempt to instruct, cause or induce another person to discriminate, harass or victimise a third person will also amount to unlawful discrimination and any employee doing so will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **5. Duty to make reasonable adjustments**

We will actively seek to make reasonable adjustments, where there is a need to ensure that a disabled person has the same access to everything as a non-disabled person, as far as is reasonable. We will take positive and proactive steps to remove, reduce or prevent the obstacles faced by a

disabled individual, as far as is reasonable. For further information, visit the Equality and Human Rights Commission website at: [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

## **6. Admissions policy**

Our admissions criteria are defined under the admissions policy and are applied consistently to every young person, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

## **7. Curriculum delivery**

The curriculum is crucial to tackling inequalities for pupils including gender stereotyping, preventing bullying and raising attainment for certain groups. We are working to ensure that the principles of equality and diversity are embedded in our academic and social curriculum.

Friern Barnet School is using the NEU Anti-Racism Framework and the discussions of the Anti-Racism Working Party as a basis for ongoing curriculum development.

Positive and proactive steps will be taken to prevent discrimination against, or victimisation of, any young person in the provision of education or access to any benefit, facility or service including educational trips, work experience and leisure activities.

## **8. Exclusion policy**

The decision to exclude a child for a fixed period or permanently is a last resort. Our exclusion criteria are defined under the exclusion policy and are applied consistently to every young person, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

## **9. Recruitment and selection**

All employees, whether part-time, full-time, temporary or permanent will be treated fairly and equally. We will avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and selection for redundancy. Selections will be made on the basis of aptitude, ability and/or merit, where appropriate.

Where appropriate, Friern Barnet School will endeavour to make all reasonable and effective adjustments during the recruitment and selection process. Where recruitment and selection is carried out by a third party, on behalf of Friern Barnet School, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure they adhere to the principles of this policy.

## **10. Reporting and recording incidents of discrimination and harassment**

In the case of students using language or behaving in a way that is racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or otherwise inappropriate, any member of staff observing this should:

1. Make a report of the incident on SIMS, using the most relevant behaviour descriptor (see notes below for guidance) and recording what was said or done by the student as precisely as possible in the notes section;
2. Where appropriate, have a discussion with the student about their behaviour;
3. Heads of Year will check SIMS behaviours daily, issue detentions and other sanctions as appropriate and consider any intervention they deem appropriate to address the concerns.

Relevant behaviour descriptors on SIMS include the following:

'Bullying', with sub-categories of 'LGBTQ-phobic language', 'Racist language', 'Sexist language' or 'Abusive language' should be used when comments have been made directly to a student or group of students with the intention of undermining or belittling them.

'Sexual misconduct' incorporates both physical acts and the use of derogatory sexual language, either aimed at individuals or a specific gender group.

'Racist abuse' or 'LGBTQ-phobic abuse' should be used when a student makes inappropriate comments in a wider context, for example claiming that they are 'banter' between friends or that they are 'just expressing an opinion'; it is important that language used in this way is challenged and recorded.

In the case of members of staff acting in a way that is contrary to the Equality and Diversity Policy, staff should:

1. Raise the issue with the colleague if they feel this is appropriate and feel confident doing so;
2. Report the issue to their Line Manager or a member of SLT;
3. If they deem it necessary, follow the school grievance procedures.

Students will also be able to report incidents and concerns using the 'Report bullying' button available via their Firefly accounts. This can be done anonymously if the student chooses.

All incidents of discriminatory treatment, bullying and harassment must be recorded as soon as is reasonably possible. All bullying-related incidents (confirmed or otherwise), will be addressed in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **11. Complaints and grievances**

If an individual believes that they have been discriminated against, harassed or victimised, they are asked to follow our complaints or grievance procedure.

### **12. Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review**

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 'Equality and Diversity Policy' is the Headteacher.

The designated member of staff is also responsible for ensuring that all young people, staff, parents/carers and placing local authorities are aware of our policy. Additional support would also be provided to any parent or significant person, wishing to know more about the policy and procedures outlined above. A copy of this policy document is available for inspection on the premises during office hours and an electronic copy is posted on our website.

This policy document will be reviewed and publicised in writing, at least biennially and, if necessary, more frequently in response to any significant incidents or new developments in national, local and organisational policy, guidance and practice.

## Further information about equality and diversity

### 1. Types of unlawful discrimination

**Direct discrimination** occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex sexual orientation).

**Discrimination by association** is direct discrimination against someone because they associate with another person who possesses a protected characteristic.

**Perception discrimination** is direct discrimination against an individual because others think they possess a particular protected characteristic. It applies even if the person does not actually possess that characteristic.

**Indirect Discrimination** occurs when a condition, provision, policy or practice applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic and it cannot be shown to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

**Discrimination arising from disability** occurs when you treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability and cannot justify such treatment. Discrimination arising from disability is different from direct and indirect discrimination.

**Harassment** occurs when a person is subject to “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”.

**Third-party harassment** occurs where, during the course of their duties, an employee is harassed by an individual or individuals who are not under the direct control of Friern Barnet School and the harassment relates to a protected characteristic.

**Victimisation** occurs when an individual is subject to a detriment because they have made an allegation of, or given evidence about, the treatment of any individual (including themselves) who has been subject to any of the above.

Any individual making allegations of a false, malicious or vexatious nature would not be protected against victimisation and will be subject to disciplinary action.

## Roles and responsibilities

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all equality and diversity matters at Friern Barnet School is the Headteacher.

The role of the Designated Person is to:

- Create an environment in which all members of the community are expected to treat one another with mutual respect, dignity and tolerance.
- Ensure that Friern Barnet School complies with equality legislation;
- Ensure all policies, practices and procedures, associated with equality and diversity, including admissions, curriculum, recruitment and selection are implemented;
- To make effective and reasonable adjustments where appropriate to meet the individual needs of staff, young people and others who may have business with Friern Barnet School;
- Ensure that all staff are aware of and follow Friern Barnet School's policy; and receive appropriate equality and diversity training, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities;
- Take 'all reasonable steps' to prevent discrimination, harassment and victimisation from taking place;
- Take responsibility for recording, managing and analysing incidents of discrimination, harassment and victimisation in accordance with Friern Barnet School's policies, procedures and guidance.

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Treat colleagues, young people and visitors with dignity and respect; and avoid behaving in any manner that may give rise to claims of discrimination, harassment or victimisation;
- Support and participate in any measures introduced to promote equality and diversity;
- Actively challenge discrimination and disadvantage in accordance with their responsibilities;
- Report any issues associated with equality and diversity in accordance with this policy.

It is important to appreciate that an employee is **personally responsible** for their own acts of discrimination, harassment or victimisation carried out during their employment, whether or not the employer is also liable.

Any attempt to instruct, cause or induce another person to discriminate, harass or victimise a third person will also amount to unlawful discrimination and any employee caught doing so will be subject to disciplinary action.