

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Introduction

This policy statement will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate statutory requirements and full account will be taken of all available official guidance and relevant codes of practice.

The Governing Body of Elthorne Park High School is committed to promoting understanding of the principles and practices of equality and justice.

Every member of staff is regarded as of equal worth and importance, irrespective of her/his religion, belief, culture, class, race, gender, sexuality, disability or age.

Aims

- To ensure that no job applicant or employee is discriminated against either directly or indirectly on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, part-time working or trade union affiliation.
- To provide an environment in which all staff feel safe enough to express and question views.
- To ensure that all staff can feel valued, supported and have appropriate advice and encouragement for their professional development.
- To ensure the principles and practices of equal opportunities apply to all members of the school community.

Discrimination

The policies and procedures adopted by the school will reflect this equal opportunities policy statement and the single equality scheme.

All forms of discrimination by any person within the school's responsibility will be treated seriously; such behaviour is unacceptable and may lead to disciplinary action.

Appointments

Those involved in making appointments must ensure that in recruitment procedures any advertisements, short listing and interview procedures are without any direct or indirect discrimination, unless there is a specifically exempt area, for instance relating to sex and decency.

The recruitment and selection process is crucially important and Governors will endeavour through appropriate training to ensure that those making selection and recruitment decisions do not discriminate in making these decisions.

Interview questions will be related to the requirements of the job and will not be of a discriminatory nature.

Selection decisions will not be influenced by perceived prejudices.

Promotion and advancement will be on merit and all decisions related to the same will be made within the overall framework and principles of this policy.

Job descriptions will be in accordance with this policy statement and any job requirements will be reflected accurately in any person specifications.

The approach to the advertising of vacancies will be non-discriminatory.

All applicants applying for posts at the school will receive fair treatment and will be considered solely on their ability to do the job.

All those involved in the recruitment process will review their selection criteria to ensure that they are related to the specific job requirements and do not unlawfully discriminate.

Short listing and interviewing will be carried out by more than one person, in accordance with the school's appointments procedure.

Retirement

The Governing Body recognises that there cannot be any default retirement age and therefore employees will be judged only on their performance.

Awareness

These guidelines and this policy statement will be circulated to any agencies involved in the school's recruitment process and copies will be made available for all employees and applicants for employment.

The policy statement will be communicated to all private contractors, reminding them of their responsibilities towards equality of opportunities.

Monitoring and review

The school will monitor the impact of this policy statement to determine its effectiveness, through the school's processes of internal review.

Monitoring will include:

- The collection and classification of information regarding ethnic/national origin, gender and disability of current employees.
- Examining the recruitment, training and promotional records of employees, including any decisions and the reasons for them.
- Monitoring of applicants to ensure that the principles of the policy statement are being applied and to respond to any complaints from unsuccessful candidates.
- Reviewing at regular intervals the results of monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy statement. Consideration will be given if necessary to adjusting the policy statement to afford greater equality of opportunity to all applicants and employees.