

Equal Opportunities Policy

Reviewed: 01//09/2025 by Jay Treacy / Tim Payne

To be reviewed by: September 2026

Uneek Learning (UL) is committed to equality and valuing diversity and actively supports practices that promote genuine equality of opportunity for all staff and young people.

I**ntroduction**

UL 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 Looked After Children

• Have Special Educational Needs / Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

• Are excluded or at risk of exclusion from school

• Are from an ethnic 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 issues

• Are school age / teenage parents

• Are young carers

• Are offending or at risk of offending

• Have Social, Emotional and mental health issues

• Are in receipt of free school meals

• Live in areas of deprivation

• Gifted and talented

• Are gender questioning or going through transition

• Are Lesbian, Gay, Transgender 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

• E-Safety Policy

• Health and Safety Policy

• Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice

• Safer Recruitment Policy

• Children Missing from Education 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.

**Compliance**

Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 is the responsibility of all members of staff. UL does not

condone any act of direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Any

breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

**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 and

• sexual orientation

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

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all equality and diversity

matters at UL is the Education Director. For further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Designated Person see Appendix 2.

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.

**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)

**Admissions policy**

Our admissions criteria are defined under the admissions policy and are applied consistently to every

young person, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

**Curriculum delivery**

The curriculum is crucial to tackling inequalities for pupils including gender stereotyping, preventing

bullying and raising attainment for certain groups. The principles of equality and diversity are

embedded in our academic and social curriculum.

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.

**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, UL will endeavour to make all reasonable and effective adjustments during the

recruitment and selection process.

**Training and Development**

UL will seek to enhance and develop the skills, knowledge and abilities of existing employees to realise their full potential, irrespective of background or employment status.

We will provide equal access to training and development opportunities for all staff, including part time, on the basis of their assessed training needs.

UL will promote greater awareness of equal opportunities and the contribution that students, parents/ carers can make.

UL will provide training to staff on equal opportunities to promote understanding of equalities legislation and the AP’s and their responsibilities.

**Reporting and recording incidents of discrimination and harassment**

All incidents of discriminatory treatment, bullying and harassment must be reported to senior staff

and recorded as soon as is reasonably possible (and in any event within 24 hours of the incident). All

bullying-related incidents (confirmed or otherwise), will be addressed in accordance with our Anti -Bullying Policy.

**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.

**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 Education Director.

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 annually and, if necessary,

more frequently in response to any significant incidents or new developments in national, local and

organisational policy, guidance and practice.

**APPENDIX 1: Further information about equality and diversity**

**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 UL 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.

**APPENDIX 2**

**Roles and responsibilities**

The designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all equality and diversity

matters at UL is the Education Director.

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 UL 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 UL;

• Ensure that all staff are aware of and follow UL’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 UL’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.

**Useful resources**

<http://www.csie.org.uk/resources/current.shtml#equality2016>

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance/education-providers>

<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/education-resources>

 LGBT guidance and support

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/education.html>

Race guidance and support

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND>

SEND Code Of Practice

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector->guidance/educationproviders/schools-guidance/keyconcepts/reasonable-adjustments

Guidance on making reasonable adjustments for pupils with a disability