

Equality & Diversity Policy

Introduction

The Liverpool Life Sciences UTC opened in September 2013 with a small number of students. It has now grown to a student body of 545 students, but remains a relatively small secondary school setting. The UTC offers a focused curriculum created to support students looking to access in the science and healthcare sectors.

The student body has a higher than average proportion of disadvantaged students, with over 44% eligible for free school meals. The proportion of students with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities is average. The school represents over 35 minority ethnic groups representing significant diversity within the Liverpool community.

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC is proud of its diverse community of students, staff and visitors and is committed to creating a positive environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The UTC aims to build a culture where:

- Fairness and inclusion are a fundamental part of everything that we do.
- Diversity is valued and celebrated.
- Good relations between diverse members of the UTC's community are promoted.
- People's diverse abilities and backgrounds are recognised and are treated with respect.
- Students from diverse backgrounds have an equal opportunity to benefit from education.
- Students and staff from diverse backgrounds have an equal opportunity to reach their potential.
- Benefits are maximised to the local communities that we serve.

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The policy provides a standpoint for the UTC under the principles of fairness for individuals who identify with the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- age
- disability
- gender
- gender reassignment
- marriage or civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief (including no religion/belief)
- sexual orientation

The UTC will reasonably seek to ensure that people are treated equitably regardless of their identification with one or more of the protected characteristics, of their socio-economic background, family responsibilities, or other appropriate distinction.

It will continue to follow codes of practice and guidelines issued by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Rights of People with Disabilities, Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Government Equalities Office (GEO) and the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU).

Liverpool Life Sciences UTC will be proactive in all matters relating to equality of opportunity and diversity. We value and will celebrate the richness brought to our institution by a diverse population of staff, students visitors and partners. We recognise and will seek to reflect the positive contributions brought to the UTC by the variety of its staff and students.

The UTC will continue to strive to provide an environment in which people want to work and to be a model employer leading in good employment practice. The UTC is committed to enabling each member of staff to achieve their full potential in an environment characterised by dignity and mutual respect. We will not tolerate discrimination, victimisation, bullying or harassment of any kind by any party. Any action found to be in breach of any of these would be addressed in accordance with UTC policies and procedures.

Equality and diversity strengthens all of our work and is at the heart of what we are and what we do.

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Scope

The Policy applies to all employees, potential employees, students, and visitors, as well as any persons or companies associated with the functions of the UTC. The UTC takes its responsibility to these people seriously and seeks to ensure that they are treated with respect.

It applies to all areas of student recruitment and admission. The UTC's Admissions Policy is underpinned by principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and access to courses and the range of services.

It also applies to all areas of employment including recruitment applications, short-listing, selection, progression, training, reward, benefits, capability and performance, discipline, grievance, absence, conditions of service and reasons for termination of employment.

The UTC's Strategic Plan and its associated objectives support this policy and sets out the steps the UTC shall take to ensure equality and diversity under the following two broad themes:

Student Experience

- Behaviour, exclusions and attendance
- Addressing prejudice and prejudice based bullying
- Support for Students
- Inclusivity in Teaching, Learning, Curriculum & Assessment
- Equality of opportunity between different groups
- Closing the gap in outcomes
- Preparation for life in a diverse society
- Widening Participation

Staff Experience

- Recruitment and Retention
- Support for Staff
- Training and Development

The activity committed to over the period of this strategy will further our obligations outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and under the Public Sector Equality Duty. These include the need to:

1. Advance and promote equality of opportunity between different groups.
2. Combat discrimination, victimisation and harassment.
3. Foster good relations between people from different groups.

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Roles and responsibilities

An Equality & Diversity Policy cannot succeed without the active support of the entire UTC and Northern Schools Trust community. The responsibility for delivering the Policy extends to every member of the organisation including management, those with an explicit remit for diversity, and individual members of staff. The implementation of this Policy is therefore a shared responsibility amongst staff employed by NST. In addition, key individuals have specific responsibilities as set out below

| Role | Responsibility |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Principal | Overall responsibility for the Policy, which includes the responsibility for ensuring that the Policy is communicated, implemented, monitored and continuously reviewed according to legislation. |
| Governing Body | To ensure that the school complies with legislation and that this policy and its related procedures and action plans are implemented. To oversee the UTC's progress with the Policy through regular agenda items at meetings of the Governing Body. An identified member of the Board is responsible for taking the lead on equality and diversity matters. |
| All teaching and support staff | <p>To comply with the Policy to ensure fair, equal and appropriate treatment in all aspects of work and study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting an inclusive and collaborative ethos • Challenging prejudice and discrimination • Dealing fairly with any prejudice-related incidents that may occur • Planning and delivering curricula and lessons that reflect the school's principles, for example providing materials that give positive images in terms of race, gender and disability • Maintain the highest expectations of success for all students • Support different groups of students in their class through differentiation • Keep up-to-date with equalities legislation relevant to their work <p>Training and guidance will be provided to new staff.</p> |
| Business partners and visitors | All UTC business partners and visitors to the schools are expected to support our commitment to equalities and comply with the duties set out in this policy. |

In our work to become a centre of excellence, we aim to support the needs of all members of our community and achieve the highest possible standards in education delivery, employment practices and decision-making.

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Communication

It is important that staff at all levels are aware of this Policy in order to comply with its requirements. A copy is available on the shared drive and website and copies must be made available to staff who have limited access to a computer.

The UTC will consult periodically with relevant stakeholders in order to ensure representation of equality groups and try to improve the options to eradicate discrimination. An Annual Report will be made available on the progress of the Equality & Diversity Strategy Objectives and will be published on the website (it will be made available to members of the public on request). The report will include specific measures adopted to promote equal opportunities, progress on developments, and the outcome of the relevant year's monitoring of statistics, EIAs and future priorities.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The UTC will review information about equalities and diversity annually and make adjustments to the policy and objectives as necessary. Review will involve students, staff, governors and parents and carers.

Complaints

The UTC will take seriously any instances of non-adherence to the Equality and Diversity Policy by students, staff or visitors. The UTC will ensure that all staff and students are given opportunities to pursue reasonable means to follow procedures should they feel they are experiencing discrimination. Complaints of discrimination on the grounds of the areas covered by this Policy should be brought using the appropriate Grievance Policy and students.

Any instances of non-adherence will be investigated and where appropriate will be considered under the relevant Disciplinary Policy for staff or students. With regard to any breach of the Policy by visitors, the UTC will take appropriate action in relation to the nature of the incident.

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Equality Objectives 2015

Raising standards of educational achievement

Equality objective: ensure that all students gain the knowledge they need to prepare them for adult life, through a reformed National Curriculum and more robust academic and vocational qualifications up to the age of 19.

Closing the achievement gap between rich and poor

Equality objective: to narrow the achievement gap for young people, including students in care, by ensuring increased opportunities and improved outcomes.

Supporting all children and young people, particularly the disadvantaged

Equality objective: help students to fulfil their full potential, by supporting families and focusing support on improving the lives of the most vulnerable children.

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