

# ACADEMY4PM

## Equality & Diversity Policy

Effective From: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

*This Policy refers to both employees and learners*

## Document Control:

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17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	V1	All	Baseline Academy4PM Equality and Diversity Policy
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## Policy

Academy4PM recognises that discrimination and victimisation is unacceptable and that it is in the interests of the organisation and its employees to utilise the skills of the combined workforce. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination or victimisation. The purpose of this policy is to provide equality and fairness for all Academy4PM employees and learners, and to ensure that no employee, job applicant, learner or prospective learner experiences unfair treatment (be this both directly or indirectly) during the process of recruitment, employment or educational enrolment.

Our aim is to embrace all characteristics of society while simultaneously offering employees and learners alike an environment where they feel respected and equally able to excel in their role.

All employees and learners, regardless of contractual working patterns, will be treated fairly and with respect without prejudice to individuals age, disability, gender, marital status, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins), religion or belief, political opinion, sex, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics). Selection for entry on to learning programmes and selection for employment, promotion, training or any other benefit will be based on aptitude and ability. Both employees and learners will be actively encouraged to recognise and develop their potential through utilising the talents and resources of the workforce.

Our staff will not discriminate directly or indirectly, harass customers or clients in the provision of the Company's goods and services.

This policy and the associated arrangements shall operate in accordance with statutory requirements, particularly Equality Act 2010. In addition, full account will be taken of any guidance or Codes of Practice issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, any Government Departments, and any other statutory bodies.

## Our Commitment

- To create an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of all our staff are recognised and valued.
- Every employee and every learner is entitled to a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.
- Training, development and progression opportunities will be available to all staff.
- To promote equality in the workplace and the learning environment, which we believe is good management practice and makes sound business sense.
- We will review all our employment practices and procedures to ensure fairness.
- Breaches of our equality policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings.
- This policy is fully supported by senior management and has been agreed with trade unions and/or employee representatives.
- The policy will be monitored and reviewed annually

## Responsibilities of Management

Responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of the arrangements will rest with the Head of Academy4PM. Directors/Managers will ensure that they and their staff operate within this policy and arrangements, and that all reasonable and practical steps are taken to avoid discrimination. Each manager will ensure that:

- all their staff are aware of the policy and the arrangements, and the reasons for the policy;
- complaints/grievances concerning discrimination are dealt with properly, fairly and as quickly as possible;
- proper records are maintained.

The head of Academy4PM will nominate a person who will be responsible for monitoring the operation of the policy in respect of employees and job applicants, including periodic departmental audits.

## Responsibilities of Staff

Responsibility for ensuring that there is no unlawful discrimination rests with all staff and the attitudes of staff are crucial to the successful operation of fair employment practices. In particular, all members of staff should:

- comply with the policy and arrangements;
- not discriminate in their day to day activities or induce others to do so;
- not victimise, harass or intimidate other staff or learners or groups who have, or are perceived to have one of the protected characteristics.
- ensure no individual is discriminated against or harassed because of their association with another individual who has a protected characteristic.
- inform their manager if they become aware of any discriminatory practice.

## Third Parties

Third-party harassment occurs where an employee or learner is harassed, and the harassment is related to a protected characteristic, by third parties such as clients or customers. Academy4PM will not tolerate such actions against its staff or learner, and the employee or learner concerned should inform their manager / supervisor/tutor at once that this has occurred. Academy4PM will fully investigate and take all reasonable steps to ensure such harassment does not happen again.

## Related Policies and Arrangements

All employment policies and arrangements have a bearing on equality of opportunity. This Policy will be reviewed regularly, and any discriminatory elements removed.

## Rights of people with Disabilities

Academy4PM attaches particular importance to the needs of people with disabilities.

Under the terms of this policy, managers are required to:

- make reasonable adjustment to maintain the services of an employee or learner opportunities who becomes disabled, for example, training, provision of special equipment, reduced working/learner hours. (NB: managers are expected to seek advice on the availability of advice and guidance from external agencies to maintain disabled people in employment and on learning programmes);
- include disabled people in training/development programmes;
- give full and proper consideration to disabled people who apply for jobs or for learning programmes, having regard to making reasonable adjustments for their particular aptitudes and abilities to allow them to be able to do the job or the learning programme.

## Equality Training

A series of regular briefing sessions will be held for staff on equality issues. These will be repeated, as necessary. Equality information is also included in induction programmes for both employees and learners.

Training will be provided for managers on this policy and the associated arrangements. All managers who have an involvement in the recruitment and selection process will receive specialist training.

Records of equality training will be maintained.

## Monitoring

- Academy4PM deems it appropriate to state its intention not to discriminate and assumes that this will be translated into practice consistently across the organisation as a whole. Accordingly, a monitoring system will be introduced to measure the effectiveness of the policy and arrangements.
- The system will involve the routine collection and analysis of information on employees and learners by gender, marital status, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion / beliefs. Analysis of employees by grade and length of service in current grade will be made. Information regarding the number of staff and learners who declare themselves as disabled will also be maintained.
- There will also be regular assessments to measure the extent to which recruitment to first appointment, internal promotion and access to training/development opportunities affect equal opportunities for all groups.
- We will maintain information on staff and learners who have been involved in certain key policies: e.g. Disciplinary, Complaints.
- Where appropriate **equality impact assessments** will be carried out on the results of monitoring to ascertain the effect of Academy4PM policies and our services / products may have on those who experience them.
- The information collected for monitoring purposes will be treated as confidential and it will not be used for any other purpose.
- If monitoring shows that Academy4PM, or areas within it, is not representative, or that sections of our workforce are not progressing properly within Academy4PM, then an action plan will be

developed to address these issues. This will include a review of recruitment and selection procedures, Academy4PM policies and practices as well as consideration of taking legal Positive Action.

## Complaints

Employees and learners have a right to pursue a complaint concerning discrimination or victimisation via Academy4PM Complaints Policy.

Discrimination and victimisation will be treated as disciplinary offences and they will be dealt with under Academy4PM Disciplinary Procedure.

## Policy Review

This policy and the arrangements for its implementation will be reviewed by the Head of Academy4PM in conjunction with staff and, where appropriate, Learners and Employers on a regular basis.