



ADVANCING EQUALITY

**SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME
(2019-2021)**

The Single Equality Scheme (SES) and SES Action Plan is available on the College Intranets and Websites

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EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

1. Purpose of the Policy Statement

1.1 The Equality and Diversity Policy Statement is a short summary of the College's priorities to advance equality, engage with and celebrate the diversity of our students, staff and local communities, as an essential part of the delivery of the College's mission and values. The Policy Statement forms part of the College's Single Equality Scheme (SES). The SES and an associated action plan, builds on existing good practice in equality and diversity and gives details of our objectives and priorities in the drive to deliver equality and diversity.

2. Defining Equality and Diversity

2.1 For us, providing equality of opportunity is essentially about creating a fairer society through Education where everyone can participate to the best of their ability and gain the skills to fulfil their potential.

2.2 For us, recognising and celebrating diversity is engaging with and valuing our differences. It is about creating a culture and practice which recognises, respects, values and harnesses the characteristics which differentiate people, making them unique, as well as the commonalities which connect us. Both the individual and the organisation benefit from this approach.

3. Mission and Aims

3.1 The missions of the merged institutions of all New city College are focused on creating opportunity for students and local communities, to fulfil their potential, to develop skills that meet the needs of industry, and to support progression to higher level study and into work.

3.2 The merged college aims to become 'Outstanding', as defined by Ofsted. The delivery of the SES is a key action in the achievement of our mission and this aim.

4. Equality and Diversity Policy and Objectives

4.1 The College policy on equality and diversity is to actively work to meet and go beyond our legal obligations by:

- Delivering education and training opportunities, and the services which underpin them, in ways that redress inequalities in society, value diversity, widen participation, foster good relations, raise ambition and success and provide opportunities to progress for all students
- Ensuring students and staff suffer no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation on the grounds of race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, and marital and civil partnership status and advance equality of opportunity for all

4.2 Our equality objectives are to ensure that the furthering equality, tackling unfair discrimination and celebrating diversity are well embedded in all aspects of our work; specifically:

1. We will ensure that promoting equality and diversity, including fostering good relations between different groups, are well embedded in all aspects, teaching, learning and assessment, across all types of provision
2. We will improve outcomes for all learners in relation to their starting points, and further close gaps in success rates between groups where inequalities exist
3. We will promote equality of access to the college for potential students from all backgrounds, avoid discrimination and promote equality in our marketing, recruitment, student support and advice and guidance systems
4. We will ensure that advancing equality and celebrating diversity are well embedded both in the delivery of activities which improve development and positive behaviour of students and in the implementation of our duties for welfare, safeguarding and promoting shared values
5. We will continue to work towards ensuring that we eliminate discrimination and that the profile of our staff and governing body more broadly reflect that of our local population of relevant age, with regard to the protected characteristics under law
6. We will ensure that our facilities, budgetary practices and allocation of resources and procedures for commissioning of goods and services support the delivery of our Equality objectives
7. We will ensure governors and managers monitor the impact of policies and equality action plans, using this monitoring data to inform our self-assessment and set relevant targets for improvement, in the delivery of the objectives outlined above

4.3 These equality objectives will be implemented across the college, as described in a detailed SES action plan. This plan will be reviewed annually, to monitor progress in the achievement of our objectives. The action plan will be included as an Appendix to the SES.

SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

Section 1 Background and Introduction

- 1.1 New City College is the largest providers of academic, vocational and leisure education in East London and parts of Essex, educating around 20,000 students per year. They have one of the most diverse student bodies in the country. They are recognised by Ofsted and other stakeholders as having good practice in promoting equality and diversity and have won numerous awards, including AoC Beacon awards and the Queens Anniversary Prize for their equality work.
- 1.2 However, we are not complacent about equality and diversity. We believe that the equality challenges which our students face need continuing effort if equality gaps in society are to be addressed and the diversity of our student body is to be celebrated. We also challenge ourselves as an employer to maintain high equality standards. Under the Equality Act 2010 the College has a 'public equality duty' to positively advance equality in respect of nine 'protected characteristics'. These are race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, and marital and civil partnership status. This legislation reinforced and supplemented previous equalities legislation such as the Race Relations Act (1975), Sex Discrimination Act (1975) and Disability Discrimination Act (2008). Since 2010 the College must also set measurable objectives for this public equality duty. The duty has three elements: the College must work to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different groups.
- 1.3 In this Single Equality Scheme (SES) the College sets out how it carries out this duty across a wide range of functions and services, including: teaching and learning; information, advice and guidance, marketing, staff recruitment and student admissions; employment practices; student services and support for progression; additional learning support; self-assessment and other quality improvement activities; budgetary decision-making and the allocation of resources. We also describe how we measure the impact on equality of our activities in each of these areas, and how we assess and publish the progress we make every year.
- 1.4 The SES begins with an outline of the context of the College's work and the vital importance of promoting equality in an area as diverse, and with the challenges and opportunities that brings, as ours. It also sets out our vision, and aims for equality.
- 1.5 The SES lists our equality objectives and describes how we undertake equalities impact assessments. It describes how we gather and monitor information, and how we involve students and staff in the setting and delivery of our equalities objectives and targets and the evaluation of our work towards them. It allocates roles and responsibilities for the main tasks, defines the arrangements for the annual publication of equality impacts and outcomes, and explains how we will monitor and evaluate the operation of the scheme. The appendices include the Single Equality Scheme Action Plan for the coming three years, and the college's impact assessment documentation.
- 1.6 By covering the areas set out above, the SES and the associated action plans comply with our legal obligations in the Equality Act and other legislation, by identifying the key areas of improvement and outcomes that the College wants to deliver to advance equality and diversity over the next three years.
- 1.7 The context for the planned action is that most learners with protected characteristics at the College - including those from vulnerable groups - are progressing well in relation to their starting points. Achievement gaps between groups are also narrowing. At the same time, staff profiles are moving closer to reflecting that of the college-age local population in terms of race, gender and disability. The drive for equality is at the heart of our work as a College and this document sets how we intend to keep it there, within the resources available.
- 1.8 The College has a range of policies to help it adhere to legal requirements and best practice. In addition to this Single Equality Scheme and the Equality and Diversity Policy the College maintains a number of other policies with direct relevance to equalities, these include:
- Anti-Harassment and Bullying Procedures within its HR procedures
 - HR Policies and Procedures
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

These are on the Intranet or copies requested from customer services for students or HR for staff.

2.1 Our Equality Objectives and How They Are Measured

- 2.2 The College implements its public equality duty by setting equality objectives, which respond to the background data set out above. The college also monitors progress, through use of measurable equality and diversity impact measures, as well as other key performance indicators. The section below sets out these objectives and their measurable indicators.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

1. We will ensure that promoting equality and diversity, including fostering good relations between different groups, are well embedded in all aspects, teaching, learning and assessment, across all types of provision.

Measurable Indicators

Quantitative and qualitative data from lesson observation system and programme, department and college SARs and annual curriculum reviews, which comment on and show progress in equality and diversity in teaching, learning and assessment.

Outcomes for learners

2. We will improve outcomes for all learners in relation to their starting points, and further close gaps in success rates between groups where inequalities exist.

Measurable Indicators

Data for retention, achievement and success and for value added shows narrowing gaps between students with different protected characteristics, at programme departmental and college level.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

3. We will promote equality of access to the college for potential students from all backgrounds, avoid discrimination and promote equality in our marketing, recruitment, student support and advice and guidance systems.

Measurable Indicators

Equality Data on students by programme shows widening participation by under-represented groups with different protected characteristics. This includes, in programmes areas with significant variation in recruitment.

Department and college SARs and annual curriculum reviews and service reviews for Marketing and IAG, comment on and show progress in equality and diversity in marketing, recruitment and guidance

4. We will ensure that advancing equality and celebrating diversity are well embedded both in the delivery of activities which improve development and positive behaviour of students and in the implementation of our duties for welfare, safeguarding and promoting shared values.

Measurable Indicators

Delivery of calendar of diversity and equality focussed events across the college and through curriculum activities and enhanced learning resources, with student perceptions and feedback showing positive impact on student attitudes and experience

Effectiveness of leadership and management

5. We will continue to work towards ensuring that we eliminate discrimination and that the profile of our staff and governing body more broadly reflect that of our local population of relevant age, with regard to the protected characteristics under law.

Measurable Indicators

Equality Data on staff and of governors' programme is collected and analysed (with staff encouraged to disclose all 9 of the protected characteristics) and shows a profile, which is becoming more broadly reflective of our local population.

An equal pay survey is produced bi-annually and shows a narrowing pay gaps for key protected characteristics, including gender.

6. We will ensure that our facilities, budgetary practices and allocation of resources and procedures for commissioning of goods and services support the delivery of our Equality objectives.

Measurable Indicators

Finance and facilities self-assessment and service reviews confirm the operation of inclusive practices that show that no systematic exclusion or negative impact on groups with protected characteristics, arising from allocation processes, budgetary or procurement decisions. A very high proportion of the college estate, becomes fully accessible to those with mobility issues.

7. We will ensure governors and managers monitor the impact of policies and equality action plans, using this monitoring data to inform our self-assessment and set relevant targets for improvement, in the delivery of the objectives outlined above.

Measurable Indicators

The equality and diversity impact measures described above are collected and analysed in annual equalities reports on students and staff and feature in the self assessment and development plans of the college, with appropriate targets for improvement, and are reported to Senior Managers and Governors.

Any significant changes to college delivery are subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, which looks at adverse impacts on any groups with protected characteristics and takes remediating action, where required.

3.1 Responsibilities

The College's Equality Strategies and the SES are the responsibility of the Senior Management Team (SMT) with oversight by the Board of Governors, and advised by Equality and Diversity Steering Groups. All staff and students have responsibilities for implementation.

3.2 Board of Governors

The Board has responsibility for equality and diversity including approving the SES and equality objectives and maintaining oversight of implementation. It will ensure Members are trained as required.

3.3 Group Principal & Chief Executive Officer

The Group Principal & Chief Executive Officer has overall responsibility for Equality and Diversity to ensure that the SES Action Plan is implemented and reviewed and is translated into organisational improvement in line with the mission and strategic objectives. The Group Principal & Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the college publishes the Equality Objectives of the College and reports on progress towards achieving them.

3.4 Management

The Principals have oversight of analysis of student data and ensure action to address student equality, including narrowing the achievement gap. They are responsible for:

- Ensuring there is proactive dialogue about equality and diversity issues throughout the College with students, staff, partner organisations, contractors, parents, carers and employers
- Ensuring that equality is embedded into lesson observations, course reviews, self-assessment and other quality improvement activities and work experience.
- Ensuring that learner involvement strategies are fully inclusive
- Producing the Annual Student Equality Performance Report, analysing the equality data and recommending action to advance equality

The Assistant Principal Student Experience works closely with Principals to provide a voice for learners and to give support to students, including those who make equal opportunity complaints or raise issues relating to harassment and discrimination. The Group Director HR is the named person for staff equalities, including issues relating to harassment, discrimination and equal opportunities within the workplace. This includes producing annual staff equality data. The Directors and Heads responsible for marketing and communications developing strategies and operational communications and marketing plans to support the College to recruit and sustain diverse student and staff bodies, e.g. by using images and marketing techniques that successfully engage with the diversity of the local community.

Each curriculum and service delivery manager is responsible for implementing equality in their area and will include equalities analysis, along with action, in their Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan.

3.5 Staff and Student Roles

The College believes that everyone in the organisation, including students and staff should participate in the promotion of equality of opportunity. Our staff and student codes of conduct make the whole learning community responsible for implementing and adhering to the College's equalities policies, by:

- Ensuring that they do not discriminate against anyone on grounds of race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, and marital and civil partnership status.
- Ensuring that they are able to recognise, challenge and report all incidents involving prejudice and discrimination
- Positively promoting equality of opportunity in their work and study

3.6 Equality Groups

The College Equality Groups are responsible for reviewing the annual self-assessment of diversity and equal opportunities, monitoring implementation of the SES, advising the Senior Management Team of actions needed, disseminating its findings, and informing all sections of the College. The groups are chaired by the Principals with the support of the Group Directors for HR and Student Services.

4.1 Publication

The SES is subject to a full review every three years. The SES action plan will be issued annually, along with a report on the college's progress towards its equality objectives, as required by the 2010 Equality Act. It will also be published electronically to key stakeholders:

4.2 Monitoring, Data Collection and Analysis

Regular monitoring, evaluation and review of the SES and the action plan will be used to highlight good practice in equality and also to identify any equality gaps. Data will be reviewed throughout the academic year and analysis brought together in annual equalities reports on students and staff. Relevant statistics will form part of the Self-Assessment Report. Surveys will be conducted and used to inform developments.

4.3 Reporting

Regular equalities reports will be published, which will set out the College's progress towards its equalities objectives, the results of impact assessments and progress on the measurable performance indicators for students and staff, including the equality impact measures in section 3 and the data as described below.

Student Data Analysis

The following statistics will be analysed by ethnicity, gender, disability, age, and also for maternity, pregnancy, marital and civil partnership status, religion and belief and sexual orientation wherever sufficient data is available.

- Student data by Whole College and by department
- Retention, Achievement and Success Rates by Whole College and by department
- Student Disciplinary Statistics
- Access to and impact of Additional Learning Support
- Identification and narrowing of participation and performance gaps and inequalities

Staff Data Analysis

These following will be analysed by ethnicity, gender, disability, age, maternity, pregnancy, marital and civil partnership status, religion and belief and sexual orientation, wherever sufficient data is available.

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| • Recruitment | • Discipline |
| • Retention and turnover | • Training |
| • Grievance | • Equal pay |

4.4 Assessing Impact of Policies

To ensure that its policies advance equality and do not discriminate, the College may undertake an Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) of significant policies and of major changes, e.g. changes to provision caused by funding changes and cuts.

Should a full Equality Impact Assessments be required the College will include clear recommendations that lead to change or amendments to ensure equitable practices where required. Appendix A sets out the EIA forms.

4.5 Progress Report on Implementing Equality Action Plan

An annual review will take place on progress in implementing detailed SES Action Plan. It will include a review of any additional action arising from any EIAs during the year. These reviews will inform the subsequent year's action plan.

Review Date: December 2021