

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION POLICY 2016 – 2018

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(Revised in line with legislative requirements)

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CHAIR OF CORPORATION AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

Grantham College confirms its continuing commitment to the principles of Equality and Diversity and the production of our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and our Equality & Diversity Annual Report demonstrates this commitment. The College's existence and activities are determined by a belief in, and a desire to ensure that all members of the College have an equal opportunity to maximise their potential, are equally valued and treated with respect. The College endeavours to ensure that it provides an appropriate and professional service to people irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage & civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity. The College recognises that, under the provisions of the Equality Act (2010) these constitute "protected characteristics". The College aims to eradicate processes, attitudes and behaviour that constitute discrimination through conscious or unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness or stereotyping. The College seeks to provide employment, education and services in an environment in which diversity is valued. The College also strives to appreciate the capabilities, insights and ideas of all individuals.

The production of our Equality Policy, Equality & Diversity Annual Report and our Equality Objectives, provide the framework and context to demonstrate the College's commitment to equality of opportunity for people to achieve full participation and individual potential as students, staff or users of the College. We strive to be a fair organisation and one where everyone accepts the differences between individuals and values the benefits that diversity brings to the College.

Mos Kalbassi
Chair of Corporation

Linda Houtby
Chief Executive

INTRODUCTION

The College's Strategic Plan states clearly the commitment to embed equality and diversity into the culture of the college.

This document describes how the College will fulfill its statutory duties to promote equality of opportunity and avoid discrimination. It is intended to meet the requirements disability, gender, race, religion and/or belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership and pregnancy & maternity. The College publishes Equality Objectives to meet the specific duties within the Equality Act 2010 and an Action Plan to meet these objectives is reviewed regularly.

This Policy represents the College's values with regard to Equality and Diversity. The College:

- values and respects difference both within the College and beyond with a commitment to place Equality and Diversity at the centre of what we do and how we do it;
- puts the interests of students first, whatever their background, standing up for the rights and opportunities of all those who use our services;
- strives to make a difference and set challenging standards for all students and staff;
- builds and maintains trust by behaving fairly and impartially in all our dealings with all members of the community.

This Policy is designed to reflect the College's Mission and Values. It also aims to demonstrate how the College will meet its commitments to equality of opportunity and valuing diversity.

In doing so, it will have four key functions:

- 1 set a context in which the College currently operates using local trend data and demographics;
- 2 lead to Action Plans and Equality Objectives which seek to eradicate or minimise negative impacts;
- 3 monitor Equality Objectives, Action Plans and Equality and Diversity Impact Measures (EDIMS) to remove any negative impacts and to identify any further areas for action;
- 4 encourage, via positive action, any initiatives that promote the full engagement of all staff and students of the College.

The Chief Executive of Grantham College has overall responsibility of the Policy, and the operational aspects rest with dedicated staff across the College. Nevertheless, despite these designated roles, all staff and students of the College have a responsibility to embed the College's values into their day-to-day activities. An annual Equality & Diversity Report is also published, once approved by the governing body, with staff and student data. These documents are published and accessible via the College Internet site. Copies of the document in other formats are available by request.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Lincolnshire has a population of over 713,000 and is a large and sparsely populated

county which has:

- Relatively high levels of youth participation and achievement;
- Low levels of adult participation in learning;
- Low skill levels in the workforce;
- Low economic growth;
- Poor communications and transport infrastructure.

Within Lincolnshire, Grantham College is centrally situated in the historic market town of Grantham. There are more than 3000 students currently studying at the College on a variety of Further and Higher Education courses, with many more enrolled on day-release and evening courses.

The College supports a broad range of Apprenticeship Frameworks. A team of Apprenticeship Advisors, with specialisms in different sector areas, engage with employers and students, providing a comprehensive service from recruitment to the conclusion of each apprentice's training programme. In addition to this, the college delivers NVQs (subject to funding criteria and eligibility) and a range of full-cost qualifications. The College ensures that there is an effective link between the college, employers, partners and students.

Grantham secondary education is a unique mix of single-sex grammar, single-sex schools and mixed comprehensive schools. Children from neighbouring towns and villages converge on the town because of the good reputation of some of the schools.

In terms of ethnicity, Lincolnshire has become more diverse with the non-white population making up 2.4% of the total population in 2011 compared to 1.4% in 2001. However this proportion is still small when compared with a national non-white population of 14%.

There are over 50 different nationalities living within the South Kesteven area (SKDC).

The community profile of South Kesteven District of which Grantham population is a part and represents some 42,000 people is as follows:

The ethnicity profile for South Kesteven District is:

Ethnicity	Nos.	%
White	130,394	97.50
Asian/Asian British	1580	1.2
Black/African/Caribbean	509	0.40
Mixed/ Multiple Ethnic	1142	0.90
Other Ethnic Group	163	0.10
TOTAL	133,788	100

Source: 2011 Census

The overall population size is projected to increase to 151,000 by the year 2021, mainly through a net increase in internal inward migration but also through an ongoing projected net increase in international and cross border migration into the district.

The disability/limiting long term illness profile for South Kesteven District is:

People without day to day activities limited	110,659	82.7%
People with day to day activities limited	23,129	17.3%
Total Population	133,788	100%

The gender profile for South Kesteven District is:

Male	64656	48%
Female	69132	52%
TOTAL	133,788	100%

Source: 2011 Census

It should be noted that 'Gender' means typically biological and social differences between men and women. The census figures quoted are based on biological differences as reported on local census returns.

There has been an increase of 1% in the female population since 2001.

The proportion of population in Lincolnshire (%) by age which reflects the local profile

Age Range	1981	2007	2020	2031
0 to 19	29	23	21	20
20 to 64	56	57	54	51
65+	16	20	25	29
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: Lincolnshire Global Change, local issues: Drivers for Change 2009

The proportion of population in Lincolnshire by age projections show that over the next two decades, whilst the proportion of 0-19 year olds still falls, the decrease will not be as marked as that for those in the 20-64 year old group. This will have implications for the future workforce. Whilst it is encouraging to note that the falling proportion of 0-19 year olds will slow, this will not be enough to address gaps left by those retiring from the workforce, both in terms of numbers and skill levels.

According to the 2011 Census estimates, the population growth in the South Kesteven area between 2001 and 2011 is 7.2% which is lower than both the county rate of growth (10.4%) and the national rate (7.9%). The largest increases in population of South Kesteven have also been seen in older age groups, in particular in those aged in their 60's. The most represented age group in 2011 is the 45-49 group. The population of younger people (aged 0-19) has decreased by 2% to 23% over that same period.

The sexual orientation profile for South Kesteven District is:

Total Population	5%	7%	8%
124,792	6,240	8,735	9,983

<i>Source: 2001 census (updates not available at this time)</i>	Estimated number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people (see note below)
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SKDC report that there is no accurate data on the numbers of men and women who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT) in the South Kesteven district reflecting a national problem with accurate statistical analysis. Both Stonewall and HM Treasury concur that between 5 – 7% of the population of the UK are LGBT. Lincolnshire County Council refers to the ‘hidden population’ of transgender people and suggests that the overall figure for the County may be 8%. SKDC assumes the actual figure is somewhere within the range quoted.

The religion and belief profile for South Kesteven District is:

Religion	Nos.	%
Christian	93,192	69.7
Buddhist	277	0.20
Hindu	394	0.30
Jewish	101	0.10
Muslim	358	0.30
Sikh	74	0.10
Any other religion	434	0.30
No religion	29,665	22.2
Religion not stated	9293	6.90

Source: 2011 Census

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of people recording Christian as their religion (81% in 2001) but only small changes in the other religions. The largest change between 2001 and 2011 is within the no religion category which has doubled to over 22% of the population.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The College's Equality Policy addresses all the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Race | 7 | Gender reassignment |
| 2 | Disability | 8 | Marriage & Civil Partnerships |
| 3 | Sex | 9 | Pregnancy & Maternity |
| 4 | Age | | |
| 5 | Sexual Orientation | | |
| 6 | Religion/Belief | | |

The Equality Act 2010 extends some protections to characteristics that were not previously covered in law and also strengthens particular aspects of equality law. For the purposes of this document it may be helpful to define the types of discrimination the Act refers to in terms of the law.

Types of discrimination: definitions

Direct discrimination

Direct discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic they have or are thought to have (see perceptive discrimination below), or because they associate with someone who has a protected characteristic (see associated discrimination below).

Associative discrimination

Already applies to race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Now extended to cover age, disability, gender reassignment and sex. This is direct discrimination against someone because they associate with another person who possesses a protected characteristic.

Perceptive discrimination

Already applies to age, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Now extended to cover disability, gender reassignment and sex. This 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

Already applies to age, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and marriage and civil partnership. Now extended to cover disability and gender re-assignment.

Indirect discrimination can occur when you have a condition, rule, policy or even a practice in your company that applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who share a protected characteristic. Indirect discrimination can be justified if you can show that you acted reasonably in managing your business, i.e. that it is "a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim". A legitimate aim might be any lawful decision you make in running your business or organisation, but if there is a discriminatory effect, the sole aim of reducing costs is likely to be unlawful.

Being proportionate really means being fair and reasonable, including showing that you've looked at "less discriminatory"

Harassment

Harassment is "unwanted conduct relating 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".

Harassment applies to all protected characteristics except for pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnership. Employees will now be able to complain of behaviour that they find offensive even if it is not directed at them, and the complainant need not possess the relevant characteristic themselves. Employees are also protected from harassment because of perception and association.

Third party harassment

Already applies to sex. Now extended to cover age, disability, gender, reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act makes an organisation/employer potentially liable for harassment of their employees by people (third parties) who are not employees of your company, such as customers or clients. An employer will only be liable when harassment has occurred on at least two previous occasions, the employer is aware that it has taken place, and have not taken reasonable steps to prevent it from happening again.

Victimisation

Victimisation occurs when an employee is treated badly because they have made or supported a complaint or raised a grievance under the Equality Act; or because they are suspected of doing so. An employee is not protected from victimisation if they have maliciously made or supported an untrue complaint.

There is no longer a need to compare treatment of a complainant with that of a person who has not made or supported a complaint under the Act.

The legislation imposes positive duties on all public bodies to promote race, disability and gender equality in everything that we do. The general duties for each piece of legislation are outlined below, and the specific duties form the framework and guidance for producing our Policy, Equality & Diversity Annual Report and associated Action Plan.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION POLICY AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Key principles

The purpose of this policy is:

- To provide guidelines for good practice in all matters relating to the treatment of staff, students and other members of the college community and in the provision of, and access to, the services that the college provides;
- To highlight legislation on equality and tackle discrimination and to make all members of the college community aware of their responsibilities under this legislation;
- To develop and deliver a Equality Policy, Equality & Diversity Annual Report, Equality Objectives and Equality Objectives Action Plan to address any areas requiring improvement;
- To ensure adherence to the relevant College policies and procedures;
- To create a working and learning environment free from discrimination and underpinned by equitable practices to ensure all members of the college community feel valued.

Mission and Strategic Priorities

Our mission is: **“Inspire, Empower, Achieve”**

Our strategic priorities include a commitment to ensuring that a commitment to Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is embraced throughout the College

Developing the Policy

The College consulted with staff, students and external partners to develop this Policy. The College now has Equality Objectives and Equality Objectives Action Plans to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. These action plans replace the previous Single Equality Scheme Action Plan. We will continue to consult with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure an inclusive process. We will use our Learner Involvement Strategy to publicise our Equality Objectives. We will use a variety of communication strategies to engage with staff and trade unions to ensure the policy, objectives and action plan addresses these needs and any areas of concern. We will also consult with the wider community through our Community Cohesion Strategy.

Meeting our Duties

We will seek to ensure that governors, staff, students and other stakeholders are aware of our Equality Objectives, the actions needed for its implementation and their respective responsibilities in relation to these objectives.

All College staff, students and governors have a responsibility to:

- Listen to what others have to say in respect of their views;
- Report any incidences of discrimination, bullying, harassment, verbal or physical abuse or aggression;
- Challenge their own prejudices and those of others;
- Know their individual rights and responsibilities in relation to the law;
- Participate in relevant training;
- Proactively promote and celebrate diversity;

- Ensure that publicity materials present appropriate and positive messages and images for all protected characteristics.

In addition:

The Grantham College Corporation is responsible for making sure the College complies with the policy and meets all of its duties (general and specific).

The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for giving a consistent and high profile lead on all equality and diversity issues; promoting equality and diversity matters within the College and in the local community; ensuring that the policy is followed and that the action plan is enacted and followed up. Specifically, the Principal & Chief Executive will chair the Equality & Diversity Committee and produce appropriate annual reports for the Corporation.

The College's Director of People & performance is responsible for promoting, monitoring and implementing all aspects of the policy as it relates to staff especially recruitment and retention. The Director of People & Performance has responsibility for supplying accurate data and monitoring information prior to meetings and reporting deadlines.

The College's Assistant Principal: Curriculum & Quality and MIS Manager are responsible for supplying accurate data and monitoring information in relation to students prior to meetings and reporting deadlines.

The Equality & Diversity Committee meet termly and are responsible for approving the policy, action plan and Equality Objectives; monitoring progress against the action plan; and receiving updates on EDIMs and any EIAs undertaken.

Training

Mandatory training on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion is provided for all staff and to new staff at induction. This includes governors and senior managers. Specific training events and professional development are scheduled throughout the year. Equality & Diversity issues are covered in the student induction process and as part of their tutorial package. Additionally, each curriculum area tailors coverage of Equality & Diversity issues within that specific vocational context. Staff and students are also required to undertake mandatory PREVENT training. Resources are made available via the staff intranet and on-line to ensure access to training is available to all staff in teaching, business support and part-time employees.

Publicity & Awareness of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and College Equality Objectives

The College will ensure all staff and students are aware of the College Policy, Equality Objectives, and Action Plan. Reference will be made at staff and student induction and it will be accessible via the College's intranet and website. College events will be held each year to raise awareness of a range of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion topics.

Complaints

Staff and students are made aware of the College's complaints procedures and it is available to any member of the college community on request. The College will take appropriate disciplinary action against any behaviour which breaches the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and its principles.

If an individual believes that they may have been discriminated against they are encouraged to raise the matter through the College's Grievance Procedure. If they believe that they may have been subject to harassment they are encouraged to raise this matter through the College's Bullying and Harassment policy.

Allegations regarding potential breaches of this policy will be treated in confidence and investigated in accordance with the relevant procedure. Staff and students who make such allegations in good faith will not be victimised or treated less favourably as a result. False allegations which are found to have been made in bad faith will, however, be dealt with under the College's Disciplinary Procedures

Any member of staff who is found to have committed an act of discrimination or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. Such behaviour may constitute gross misconduct and, as such, may result in summary dismissal. The College takes a strict approach to serious breaches of this policy.

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

The College has a procedure to undertake EIAs on all new policies/procedures and on any revised policies/procedures. EIA documents are contained in Appendix 1. The procedure is as follows:

1. All new and amended Policies will have an EIA carried out at the time of production or review date. Any existing policy will have an EIA carried out at the time of the review date.
2. The Stage 1 EIA should be carried out by the Policy originator, along with at least one member of the Equality and Diversity Committee and a relevant stakeholder (student for student Policies, staff for staff Policies).
3. The outcomes of the Stage 1 EIA should be reported to the next Senior Management Team meeting who will consider if a Stage 2 EIA should be carried out.
4. The Stage 2 EIA is carried out by the stakeholders involved in Stage 1, a member of the Senior Management Team and stakeholders from those groups potentially differentially impacted upon by the new Policy/Procedure.
5. Through the Equality & Diversity Committee the Principal & Chief Executive will publish the findings of all EIAs annually.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Protected Characteristics:

- **Race Equality**
- **Disability**
- **Sex / Gender**
- **Age**
- **Sexual Orientation**
- **Religion / Belief**
- **Gender Reassignment**
- **Pregnancy & Maternity**
- **Marriage & Civil Partnerships**

Race Equality

Under the Equality Act 2010 the College is required to have due regard, in exercising its functions, to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination;
- promote equality of opportunity between people of different racial groups;
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups;

The College is also required to:

- collect and publish employment monitoring data.
- publish Equality objectives

The College therefore makes every effort to welcome staff and students from any ethnic background - everyone is regarded as an individual. The College encourages the contributions and wealth of experience which individuals from different backgrounds can bring to the College.

The College uses Skills Funding Agency (previously Learning and Skills Council) EDIM categories to collect data from its student population. This data is collated and used to analyse participation and success rates - it is not used in the recruitment or selection of students. These categories are also used to capture data on the College's staff profile - again, this is not used for the purposes of recruitment or selection, but can help the College to take appropriate positive action when considering the ethnic profile of its staff.

Data in relation to both staff and students is analysed and presented to the Equality and Diversity Committee, and annually to the Corporation. Appropriate Action Plans and EDIMs are drawn up in relation to the data. Equality Objectives will be published and monitored in accordance with legislation. In addition, the College analyses complaints and grievances on the basis of ethnicity, as well as data on disciplinaries for students.

In relation to ethnicity the College also undertakes the following:

- Ensuring any publicity or promotional materials reflect positive images of ethnicity;
- Reviewing admissions procedures to ensure there are no barriers to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students;
- Undertake impact assessments on new policies and procedures to ensure they are compliant with legislation;
- Monitor the recruitment, retention and achievement of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students;
- Monitor curriculum resources and practices which address anti-racism and promote positive race relations;
- Celebrate diversity through own College events;
- Provide staff training on equality and diversity matters;
- Monitor teaching and learning practices via lesson observations, noting and sharing good practice where observed.

Grantham College Commitment

Grantham College celebrates and values the diversity brought to the College community by individuals, from a variety of racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The College will treat all employees and students with respect and dignity, and seek to provide a positive working and learning environment free from racial discrimination, harassment or victimisation and meet the needs of a diverse student population within a multi-cultural society.

The College is committed to eliminating discrimination, and creating a working and learning environment based on good relations between members of different racial groups. The aim is to create an inclusive culture/environment where College staff and students challenge and prevent racism and discrimination, respect diversity and difference, and encourage good relations between people of different groups.

Purpose

The College will work towards the elimination of racism whether overt, covert, direct or indirect or by omission to ensure that individuals and communities have appropriate access to our learning programmes, support services, facilities and employment opportunities.

As with the staff profile, the College has a more diverse student population than that of the local community. We continue to provide an inclusive environment and encourage good relations between students.

Monitoring

The College will collect further detailed data in accordance with our Equality and Diversity Monitoring Framework in order to monitor the participation, performance and satisfaction of different ethnic groups.

For example, for students, the College will monitor by ethnicity:

- enrolments by programme area
- retention rates and trend data over 3 years
- achievement rates and trend data over 3 years
- disciplinary action
- satisfaction rates

For employees, the College will monitor by ethnicity:

- ethnic profiles of employees by Job Family
- job application rates
- selection success rates
- type of contract (permanent, temporary)
- promotion application and success rates
- disciplinary proceedings
- grievances
- satisfaction rates
- gender pay gap

Racial harassment and bullying

The College will:

- take action to prevent racist behaviour against individuals or groups, including racial harassment and bullying;
- deal promptly with any incidents that do arise and are reported, in accordance with its Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and formal complaint/grievance procedures;
- record and monitor such reported incidents and report on these annually to the Equality & Diversity Committee.

Racial harassment could include:

- any behaviour which causes discomfort, intimidates or offends or which incites others to do so (derogatory names, insults, racist jokes or ridiculing cultural difference);
- the display or circulation of offensive material, including racist graffiti, electronic mail or information published through the Internet;
- verbal abuse and threats of physical attack.

Publicity

College publicity material presents appropriate and positive messages about minority ethnic groups in accordance with this policy. The College's Equality Objectives will be publicised via the college website and intranet.

We will publicise to stakeholders, including students, work placement providers and staff, our commitment to racial equality and celebration of diversity. A summary of the results of our monitoring information will be included in our annual report. All staff will be informed about this policy and Equality Objectives and have access to it via the staff Intranet.

Environment

The College is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment and maximising opportunities to celebrate diversity.

The College believes the classroom should be a place where contributions from all students are valued. Teaching will be differentiated to take account of students' cultural backgrounds, linguistic needs and different learning styles.

The teaching environment will allow all students to contribute fully and feel their culture and experience are valued. Teaching will encourage students to express their point of view, listen to the views of others and examine critically a range of viewpoints; books and materials which reflect ethnic and cultural diversity.

Recruitment and Selection – Staff

Our staff recruitment, selection and promotion procedures are designed and operate to eliminate bias and are in accordance with the policy. Applications for employment are drawn from as wide a pool as possible with positive action designed to encourage applications from under-represented groups. We will continue to find new ways to engage with the diverse communities to ensure recruitment of the best talent.

Applications for employment, recruitment and promotion will be monitored by ethnicity and reported on to both Equality and Diversity Committee and the Board of Governors.

Recruitment and Selection – Students

College staff will promote the recruitment of students from under-represented groups. Particular attention will be given to promoting recruitment in areas highlighted by the LSC/SFA's Equality and Diversity Impact Measures. Applications and recruitment will be monitored by ethnicity and reported in to Equality and Diversity Committee and the Board of Governors.

Curriculum and Access to the Curriculum

Schemes of work, course content, induction and tutorial programmes are sensitive to and positively promote cultural diversity. Students, irrespective of background, have access to the full range of College programmes, resources, support services and facilities.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- publications, policies, schemes of work, lesson content and teaching resources demonstrate sensitivity to issues of cultural diversity ;
- all teaching resources are free from bias, avoid stereotyping and promote diversity;
- opportunities to celebrate diversity are identified;
- different cultures are respected and valued;
- stereo-typing and discriminatory behaviour are challenged.

Partnerships

The College values partnership working and seeks to maintain and develop productive partnerships within the College's recruitment area.

All work placement providers will receive a summary of their responsibilities under the Policy and will sign to confirm their understanding of them. Contractors providing services to the College on or off College property will be made aware by means of a written statement of the College's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy.

Disability Equality

The College is required by the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard, in exercising its functions, to the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act;
- eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disabilities;
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life;
- take steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled people more favourably than others.

The legislation states that a person has a disability if:

“They have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, which would include things like using a telephone, reading a book or using public transport.”

The College is committed to accommodating staff and students with disabilities. Wherever possible, the College will respond to meet the needs of individuals. This means making reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled staff and students are not treated less favourably for any reason connected to their disability. By using the term 'disability', the College acknowledges the broadest definitions of disability to include medical conditions and mental health issues. The College works within the social model of disability, focusing upon what individuals can do, as opposed to the deficit model, e.g. what an individual cannot do. Individual assessments of needs are undertaken, and all reasonable adjustments are put in place to remove any barriers to effective participation.

The College's estate is largely accessible, and there is certainly access to all specialist areas of activity. There is dedicated specialist staff to provide additional support for students on a 1:1 or workshop basis. The College works with a number of external agencies to meet the specialist needs of individuals. The College has provision for students with mild to moderate learning difficulties, and effective links with local special schools. New specialist facilities were opened in 2014 which have increased and improved the facilities for students with a range of disabilities.

As with ethnicity, data is collected and analysed for both staff and students. Student data is analysed to ensure that there are no barriers to success based on disability or any other individual difference. Students are given multiple opportunities to disclose any disability they may have, or indeed which may occur, or be recognised, during their time at College. Data on staff is held by the team, who again contribute to an annual reporting procedure to the Corporation and the College Equality and Diversity Committee. The College uses the same strategies for promoting equality for its staff and students with a disability as it does for ethnicity.

However, the College also considers the following checks when recruiting staff:

- The College will only ask “health related” questions in the recruitment & selection process in order to decide whether an individual requires any reasonable adjustments as part of the selection process; in deciding whether an applicant can carry out a function is essential/intrinsic to the job; to monitor diversity amongst applicants and to take positive action to assist disabled people. The College will not

make pre-employment health related checks but could ask appropriate health related questions once the offer (conditional or unconditional) of a job has been made.

The Equality Act (2010) brings new aspects of discrimination for people with disabilities into legislation which were not previously covered – these include associative discrimination, discrimination by perception, indirect discrimination and harassment by a third party. These changes bring a duty on the College as an employer to acknowledge the impact of these forms of discrimination as well as ensuring that such forms of discrimination are not tolerated for other members of the college community particularly although not exclusively students. Furthermore, there is new protection under the Equality Act 2010 from discrimination arising from disability. This means it is discrimination to treat a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability. This type of discrimination is unlawful where the College or other person acting for the College incurs or could reasonably be expected to know that the person has a disability.

Grantham College Commitment

Grantham College celebrates and values the diversity brought to the College community by all individuals. We believe that the College will benefit from employing and recruiting both disabled and non-disabled people at all levels of responsibility, and across all areas of work and study. The College will treat all employees and students with respect and dignity, and seek to provide a positive working and learning environment free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

Grantham College is committed to combating all forms of prejudice and unfair discrimination concerning disability and to providing an environment that reflects and respects inclusive learning. The aim is to create a positive inclusive ethos with a shared commitment to challenging and preventing stereotyping, prejudice and disability discrimination, to respecting diversity and difference, and to encouraging good relations between disabled people and non-disabled people.

Purpose

The College will work towards the elimination of disability discrimination whether overt, covert, direct or indirect or by omission to ensure that individuals and communities have equal access to our learning programmes, facilities and employment opportunities and appropriate access to support services. The College also recognises the need to eliminate associative discrimination, perceptive discrimination and victimisation in accordance with the Equality Act (2010).

The College supports the aim that “disabled people in Britain should have full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and be respected and included as equal members of society” (HEFCE 2006) and recognises the role of further education in achieving this aim.

Monitoring

Further detailed breakdowns are collected in accordance with the College’s Equality and Diversity Monitoring Framework in order to monitor the participation, performance and satisfaction of College users with disabilities and difficulties of different types.

For example, for students and employees, the College will monitor by disability:

- participation;
- success;
- job applications, recruitment and turnover ;
- satisfaction levels with regard to the College as a learning and working environment;
- staff/student grievances;
- complaints;
- staff/student disciplinarys;
- type of contract (permanent, temporary);
- promotion application and success rates.

Environment

The College is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment; the classroom should be a place where contributions from all students are valued and teaching will be differentiated to take account of students' needs and different learning styles.

The teaching environment will allow all students to contribute fully and feel their experiences are valued. Teaching will encourage students to express their point of view, listen to the views of others and examine critically a range of ideas; books and materials will include positive images of disability

The College recognises that all its disabled students have an entitlement to adjustments being made for them, regardless of how they are funded, and will continue to make efforts to maximise the Additional Learning Support budget and other income streams to the benefit of its disabled students.

As part of its support infrastructure, the College will continue to invest significant resources in the Additional Learning Support Team, and the specialist skills of the Learning Support Assistants, each of whom specialises in a specific learning difficulty or disability including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, emotional and behavioural difficulties, Deaf, hard of hearing or deafened, visually impaired, moderate or severe learning difficulties and medical conditions. A Mental Health Advisor is available to support and advise students with mental health difficulties.

Recruitment and Selection – staff

The College's staff recruitment, selection and promotion procedures are designed and operate to eliminate bias and are in accordance with the policy. Applications for employment are drawn from as wide a pool as possible with positive action designed to encourage applications from under-represented groups.

Disabled staff are represented at all levels of the organisation. Recruitment guidelines relating to disabled applicants have been published. The College has achieved the positive about Disabled People Award and supports the time to Change Agenda for Mental Health.

Rehabilitation of newly disabled employees

The College makes every effort, when an employee becomes disabled, to make sure they stay in employment through a range of Human Resources policies and practices.

The College is aware of its legal obligations to make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled staff to carry out their duties and will attempt to exceed the legal minimum where possible. For example, extra equipment for staff above what would be required in Law has been provided.

Applications for employment, recruitment and promotion will be monitored by disability and reported to both Equality and Diversity Committee and the Board of Governors.

The College will continue to find new ways to engage with all sections of the community to ensure recruitment of the best talent.

Recruitment and Selection – Students

College staff will promote the recruitment of students from under-represented groups.

Applications and recruitment will be monitored by disability and reported to the Equality and Diversity Committee and the Board of Governors. However, as an organisation, the College recognises our limitations and there may be occasions where the College cannot meet the needs of all students.

Partnerships with schools

Grantham College works in partnership with local schools. Students from Special Schools are invited to attend a link programme at the College to enable students to settle easily into College life and to ensure their needs are appropriately met.

The College encourages students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to attend taster days on site.

The College's Student Support Team has effective links with the local authority that have responsibility for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities aged 16-25.

Curriculum and Access to the Curriculum

The College advocates the Social Model of Disability and will endeavour to eliminate all barriers to disabled people across all aspects of College activity, including raising awareness and promoting the use of the preferred language of disability.

The College recognises that within the student and staff body, 1 in 4 are likely to be disabled according to the definition within the Equality Act 2010 Section 6 and Schedule 1 but, despite several opportunities for disclosure, many will prefer not to disclose a disability. Their wishes will be respected but the vision for disability equality is one where the College will proactively work towards developing our procedures and practice into mainstreaming solutions that will benefit not only the College's disabled staff and students, but also our prospective staff and students.

Schemes of work, course content, induction and tutorial programmes are sensitive to and actively promote positive attitudes to disability. All students will have access to appropriate programmes and reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate this access.

Where students are provided with learning support assistants as part of their support package at College, their support will be regularly reviewed with a view to reducing their dependence on others.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- publications, policies, lesson content and teaching resources promote positive images of, and attitudes to, people with disabilities;
- all teaching resources are free from bias, avoid stereotyping and promote diversity;
- opportunities to embed positive attitudes to disability are identified;
- stereo-typing and discriminatory behaviour are challenged.

Sex/ Gender Equality

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination and harassment that is unlawful under the Act;
- promote equality of opportunity between men and women;
- consider the need to have objectives that address the cause of any difference between the pay of men and women that are related to their sex.

As with disability and ethnicity, the College collects data on gender for both staff and student groups. Again, gender data is not used as any basis for recruitment and selection. For students, College managers identify how males and females are recruited, retained and how well they achieve. Where there are any inequalities, Action Plans are put into place to address the gender imbalance. In addition, both complaints made by students and student disciplinarys are analysed to ensure no one group is being treated unfavourably.

Human Resources routinely collect data on staff by gender. Again, data is analysed on the basis of numbers of staff employed, numbers in management roles, leavers, Continuing Professional Development records and any general disciplinary matters. As with disability and ethnicity, data is reported routinely to the Equality and Diversity Committee and the Corporation. The College undertakes the same activities as with disability and ethnicity to challenge prejudices, stereotyping and intolerance, and to promote the rights of the individual.

In addition, the College recognises the Equality Act 2010 and associated discrimination and discrimination by perception on the grounds of sex as being unlawful.

Grantham College Commitment

The College has a vision for gender equality for Grantham College that gives women and men real choice and equality of opportunity about their learning preferences. The College also aspires to be employer of choice for women and men, and for both genders to have equal chances, treatment and pay.

The College is committed to eliminating discrimination, and creating a working and learning environment based on good relations between men and women. The aim is to create an inclusive culture where College staff and students challenge sex discrimination and stereotyping, respect difference, and to make a contribution to pushing forward the understanding of gender equality for the future.

Purpose

The College believes in enabling staff and students to fulfill their potential whatever their gender and continue to work towards this goal. The College aims to ensure that individuals and communities have equal access to our learning programmes, support services, facilities and recruitment opportunities; that we work towards the elimination of sex discrimination and harassment whether overt, covert, direct or indirect or by omission; and to promote equality of opportunity between all genders.

Women and men, including transgender people, may experience different forms of disadvantage depending on their various identities and In order to understand and address questions of gender equality, we may need to consider whether particular groups of women or men are experiencing particular disadvantages.

The College will continue to invest in recruitment campaigns which encourage applications for learning and employment from both genders and to promote learning and employment initiatives to address gender segregation.

Information Gathering and Monitoring

The College will collect data in accordance with the policy and Equality Objectives in order to monitor the participation, performance and satisfaction of College users by gender, to measure progress, and to set future targets:

For example the College will monitor by gender:

For students:

- participation in learning by curriculum area;
- success ;
- satisfaction levels with regard to the College as a learning environment;
- student grievances;
- complaints;
- student disciplinaries.

For employees:

- job applications, recruitment and turnover;
- satisfaction levels with regard to the College as a working environment;
- staff grievances;
- complaints;
- staff disciplinaries;
- type of contract (permanent, temporary);
- promotion application and success rates.
- gender pay gaps

Review of Information Gathering

In addition to the factors listed above, additional monitoring factors related to gender include:

- The gender of employees by grade/salary scale, and type of work (e.g. management, teaching, support).
- Rates of requests for flexible working.
- Return rates from maternity leave, and the roles to which they return.

The College confirms that monitoring data collated from staff will be anonymised and treated in confidence. However, the College recognises that transsexual employees may still be unwilling to identify themselves as such due to concerns of privacy. No information will be published that will enable an individual member of staff to be identified.

Once the results of the monitoring and analysis are available, the College will use the results to inform the setting of objectives for the Equality Objectives Action plan. The results and objectives will be monitored and the action plan overseen and monitored by the Equality and Diversity Committee.

Environment

The College is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment and maximising opportunities for students to participate and succeed in non-traditional areas.

The College believes the classroom should be a place where contributions from all students are valued.

The teaching environment will allow all students to contribute fully and feel their experiences are valued. Teaching will encourage students to express their point of view, listen to the views of others and examine critically a range of viewpoints; books and materials will include positive images of gender in non-traditional roles and occupations. Teaching materials will be free from sexist language, bias and stereotyping.

Recruitment and Selection – staff

The College's staff recruitment, selection and promotion procedures are designed and operate to eliminate bias and are in accordance with this policy and our Equality Objectives. Applications for employment are drawn from as wide a pool as possible with positive action designed to encourage applications from women and men for non-traditional areas.

Promoting and Managing Flexible Working

The College understands the difficulties facing those with young families or other caring responsibilities in the workplace and recognises the importance of a healthy work-life balance for all staff. The College currently operates a number of different working arrangements for different categories of staff. These are detailed in the Flexible Working Policy.

Recruitment and Selection – Students

College staff will promote the recruitment of students from under-represented groups. Particular attention will be given to areas highlighted in Equality and Diversity Impact Measures. Applications and recruitment will be monitored by gender and reported to the Equality and Diversity Committee and the Board of Governors. In addition the College has:

- single gender taster days;
- identification of role models in vocational areas.

Curriculum and Access to the Curriculum

Schemes of work, course content, induction and tutorial programmes are sensitive to and positively promote gender equality. Male, female and transgender students have access to the full range of College programmes, resources, support services and

facilities.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that:

- publications, policies, schemes of work, lesson content and teaching resources avoid stereotyping and sexist language;
- all teaching resources promote positive images of men and women;
- teaching strategies encourage participation and achievement of male and female students;
- stereo-typing and sexist behaviour are challenged.

Professional Development

The staff induction programme will highlight the college's commitment to gender equality, explain legal responsibilities and examine good practice in terms of eliminating sex discrimination.

Staff in vocational areas where traditionally either male or female students dominate will be consulted on their training needs in order to widen access and reduce gender segregation.

There will be professional training available throughout the year to address gender equality issues, including appropriate language and positive images, challenging sexist and discriminatory behaviour and embedding equality and diversity in teaching resources. Resources will be made available via the Staff Intranet and on-line to ensure access to training is available to all staff in teaching, business support and part-time employees.

Age Equality

This legislation makes it unlawful to discriminate against anyone in relation to his or her age and employment. Key issues whilst applying this legislation include recruitment and selection of staff, offering equal access to training opportunities, acknowledging long service and supporting staff that have caring responsibilities.

The College aims not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of age. For staff and students this means a focus on the individual's skills to undertake either a programme of study or employment.

Default retirement age (formerly 65) has now been phased out, meaning most people can now work for as long as they want to. Retirement age is now when an employee 'chooses' to retire. If an employee chooses to work longer they cannot be discriminated against. However, some employers may set a compulsory retirement age but only if they can clearly justify it. It's an employee's responsibility to discuss when and how to retire with their employer. This could include phasing retirement by working flexibly. Members of the occupational pension schemes need to discuss with the pension scheme administrators (TPS and currently West Yorkshire Pension Fund for LGPS) what impact a change in working hours or income might have on their pension, whether the scheme supports phased retirement and working beyond the scheme's normal pension age.

The College also recognises that associative discrimination and harassment, including by a third party, are legislated for in the Equality Act 2010.

Student Age data

For students, age data is collected via the enrolment process and stored on the Individual Learner Record. The information on age is only used on the basis for recruitment and selection, where there are age restrictions placed upon programmes of study. For example, the SFA currently state that Community Learning (formerly PCDL) funded provision can only be accessed by students aged 19 or over. Student recruitment, retention and achievement is regularly analysed by age - any differentials in performance are taken seriously, and appropriate action taken. As with disability, ethnicity and gender, data on age - both of staff and students - is reported to relevant committees within the College.

Sexual Orientation Equality

The legislation outlaws discrimination in employment and vocational training on grounds of sexual orientation and has been amended to take account of the introduction of civil partnerships. The regulations promote recognising and being respectful of individual's sexual preference, maintaining confidentiality about their sexual preference and not deliberately disclosing a person's sexuality.

The College makes every effort to welcome students and staff regardless of their sexual orientation (heterosexual, gay, bi-sexual and lesbian people), re-assignment, re-affirmation or preference. Everyone should be regarded as an individual and treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. The College does not routinely gather information from students regarding their sexual orientation or preferences. There is a process for gathering this information for our staff in order that the College might meet the needs of all individuals.

It is hoped that by encouraging an inclusive culture, and by providing opportunities for all individuals to contribute to the life of the College, the full diversity of the College community will be recognised and celebrated. The College will cultivate a supportive environment for staff and students who wish it to be known they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, whilst acknowledging the right of individuals to choose whether they wish to be open about their sexuality. The College recognises the Equality Act 2010 legislates against harassment and harassment by a third party as a result of a person's sexual orientation.

Religion/Belief Equality

The legislation makes it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of religion or belief defined as being any religion, religious belief or similar philosophical belief. This includes accommodating religious needs such as requests for time off to attend religious functions, acceptance of a person's religious or belief system, meeting a person's specific dietary requirement such as Halal or Kosher food and prayer facilities, as far as possible. The college has a Faith Room which has dedicated facilities for members of staff and students to use for the purpose of prayer or discussion. This room is also available for staff or students who have no faith for quiet reflection.

The College promotes understanding and awareness of religion and belief through multi-faith days, guest speakers, Chaplaincy Service, curriculum activities and involvement with local community events.

The College endeavours to welcome students and staff regardless of their religion or belief preferences. Everyone is regarded as an individual, and the contributions they made to the diversity of the College are valued. The College is a secular organisation and, as such, does not offer preferential treatment to any faith/belief group. Currently the College does not collect information from students regarding their religion or belief. Information is collected from staff, but is not used as the basis for recruitment or selection. The College anticipates that by fostering an inclusive culture that individuals will feel there are opportunities to contribute to the diversity of the College.

The College recognises that the Equality Act 2010 would include under this protected characteristic a lack of religion also. The College recognises that discrimination because of religion or belief can occur even where both the discriminator and recipient are of the same religion or belief. The 2010 Act provides protection against harassment by a third party and legislative changes to harassment and victimisation on the basis of this protected characteristic.

Gender Reassignment

Under the Equality Act 2010, protection is afforded to transsexual people. A transsexual person is someone who proposes to, stops or has completed a process to change his or her gender. The Act no longer requires a person to be under medical supervision to be protected. The College will avoid treating transsexual employees less favourably for being absent from work because they propose to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone gender assignment/ re-affirmation than they would be treated if they were absent because they were ill or injured.

The College will ensure that students will not be denied access to courses, progression to other courses, or fair and equal treatment. Staff and students undergoing medical and surgical procedures relating to gender reassignment will receive support from the College to meet their particular needs at work or study during this period. Individual needs can be discussed with a line manager and HR for staff, or with the Assistant Principal: Services for Students.

Pregnancy & Maternity

The Equality Act 2010 and other aspects of employment law means that a woman is protected against discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy or maternity during the period of her pregnancy and any statutory maternity leave. The College pays due regard to the legislation for its employees. The College will also extend support for any students who become pregnant during the course of her studies.

Marriage & Civil Partnerships

The College recognises the law for employees who are married or in a civil partnership. The College will not discriminate against individuals – employees or students on the basis of their marital status or civil partnership.

**APPENDIX 1
STAGE 1 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE**

Name of Policy/Procedure being assessed	
Name of manager/group carrying out assessment	
Have you undertaken an initial screening process?	Yes / No
Is this a new or existing Policy/Procedure?	New / Existing
What areas are there concerns relating to differential impacts? i.e. Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion & Belief, Sexual Orientation, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Socio-Economic, people with caring responsibilities, people in care / looked after	
What type of concern is there that the Policy / Procedure could have differential impacts on other groups?	
What evidence do you have for this?	
What are the expected benefits of the Policy/ Procedure, projects, etc? What positive impact could it have on reducing inequalities?	

Date completed	
Signed by	
Date referred to Senior Leadership Team	
Date considered by Senior Leadership Team	
Decision to move to Stage 2	
Date to Equality and Diversity Committee	

**APPENDIX 1
STAGE 2 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE**

Name of Policy/Procedure being assessed	
Name of staff and stakeholders carrying out the assessment	
What were the outcomes of the Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment?	
Which relevant experts/stakeholders have been approached?	
How have you gained the views of these experts/stakeholders?	
What views were obtained?	
Taking these views into account, please outline the risks associated with the Policy/Procedure weighted against the benefits.	
What changes/modifications will be made as a result, and how will these be monitored?	
How will these changes be communicated to interested parties and those consulted?	

Date completed	
Signed by Senior Leadership Team Member	
Date referred to Equality and Diversity Committee	