



## Equality Information and Objectives

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<b>Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	Trust Board; Local Governing Bodies	
<b>Links</b>	Academy Accessibility Plans Risk Management Policy Academy Behaviour Policies	
<b>Staff member responsible</b>	Chief Executive Officer	

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This policy sets out our approach to equality and the equality objectives for Summit Learning Trust.  
Section 8 sets out the equality objectives for our Trust and for individual academies.

## 1. Aims

Our Trust aims to meet its obligations under the public sector equality duty by having due regard to the need to:

- To enhance the inclusive culture of DEI awareness, allyship and advocacy in an environment where self-education is actively encouraged, and challenge of conscious *and* unconscious bias is promoted by all learners and colleagues. Make systematic and impactful changes to work towards diversifying our governance groups and workforce to become more reflective of the richly diverse communities we serve.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements under the following legislation:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which introduced the public sector equality duty and protects people from discrimination
- [The Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#), which require academies to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to publish equality objectives

This document is also based on the [Department for Education \(DfE\) advice for academies on the Equality Act](#), the [technical guidance for academies from the Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) and [guidance from the Government Equalities Office on meeting the specific duties that support the public sector equality duty](#).

This document also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

Our CEO, supported by our Board of Trustees, leads the vision, mission and values of Anti-Discrimination and the promotion of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) across our Trust.

Our Human Resources Director is responsible for the oversight of gathering equalities information and providing analysis and information to the academies, the Executive Team and to the Trust Board.

Our Deputy CEO and the Director of the Professional Learning Institute (PLI) are responsible for ensuring that all academy leaders prioritise work in their academies, and for providing high quality training and information for all colleagues. Principals are responsible for delivering a curriculum informed by and for educating all learners in values.

Our Executive Directors are responsible for ensuring that their directorate teams take part in all relevant training and promoting the DEI values in all their work.

### 3.1 The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will:

- Ensure that the equality information as set out in this statement is communicated throughout our Trust, including to local governors, staff members, learners, parents and carers and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every 2 years.
- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives on a daily basis to the academy Principals and Local Governing Body (LGB) of each academy.

### 3.2 The Local Governing Bodies (LGB)

The Local Governing Body will, for their academies:

- Meet with the designated member of staff for equality every term, and other relevant staff members, to discuss any issues and how these are being addressed
- Ensure they are familiar with all relevant legislation and the contents of this document
- Attend appropriate equality and diversity training
- Report back to the full board of trustees regarding any issues

### 3.3 The Principal

The Principal will, for their academy:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff members and learners.
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to governors.

### 3.4 The designated member of staff for equality

The designated member of staff (CEO) for equality will, for Summit Learning Trust:

- Support the Principals and our Trust in promoting knowledge and understanding of the equality objectives amongst staff members and learners
- Report to the Board of Trustees every term to raise and discuss any issues.
- Support the Principal in identifying any staff training needs and organise training as necessary in liaison with our Deputy CEO, Education Director and Director of PLI.
- Liaise with Equality representatives across our Trust to drive this programme forward

### 3.5 All staff members across our Trust

All staff members across our Trust are expected to have regard to this document and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in section 8.

## 4. Challenging and Eliminating discrimination

Our Trust is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions.

It is the role of all staff members to actively challenge discrimination amongst colleagues and learners; our expectation is that all staff members will be the champions of diversity, equity and inclusion, equality in our Trust and our academies.

Where relevant, our policies include reference to the importance of avoiding discrimination and other prohibited conduct.

Trustees, local governors and all staff members are regularly reminded of their responsibilities under the Equality Act, for example during meetings. Where this has been discussed during a meeting it is recorded in the meeting minutes.

As part of our DEI programme, all staff members have a series of mandatory training sessions, and also have access to a wide range of equalities training across the year through our Professional Learning Institute, and access to a wide range of reading and support materials.

Our Trust has a DEI Steering Group which meets termly to consider progress against the strategic plan and feedback from Academy DEI Steering Groups.

## 5. Advancing equality of opportunity

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, our Trust aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people connected by a particular characteristic
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all learners to be involved in the full range of academy societies; encouraging all staff members to participate in events).

### 5.1 Publishing information about learners

In fulfilling this aspect of the duty our Trust will at all times adhere to the requirements of GDPR. There will be no compulsion for any learners to disclose any identification with a protected characteristic. We understand

that this will result in limited data but we aim to create safe environments in our academies for as many learners as possible to feel confident to share their own identification. We will, for every academy:

- Publish attainment data for each academy each academic year showing how learners with different characteristics are performing
- Analyse the above data to determine strengths and areas for improvement, implement actions in response and publish this information
- Make evidence available identifying improvements for specific groups (e.g. declines in incidents of homophobic or transphobic bullying)
- Publish further data about any issues associated with particular protected characteristics, identifying any issues which could affect our learners
- Relevant information about each academy will be published on their individual websites.

## 5.2 Publishing information about staff members

In addition to the information about learners, we will consider how our activities as an employer affect staff members with protected characteristics. In fulfilling this aspect of the duty our Trust will at all times adhere to the requirements of GDPR. There will be no compulsion for any staff member to disclose any identification with a protected characteristic. We understand that this will result in limited data but we aim to create a safe environment. As a Trust, we will consider the following information:

- The make-up of our workforce, with breakdowns of staff groups with different protected characteristics
- Gender pay-gap reporting and other pay equality issues
- Recruitment and retention rates for the staff body with different protected characteristics
- Applications for flexible working and their outcomes for staff members with different protected characteristics
- Applications for learning and development opportunities and their outcomes for staff members with different protected characteristics
- Grievances and disciplinary issues for staff members with different protected characteristics
- Policies and programmes in place to address equality concerns from staff members
- Information from staff member surveys

We will make sure that with any data we publish to show how we meet our equality duties, individual staff members or learners will not be identifiable. This means we may suppress some data if it relates to a very small number of staff members or learners to preserve their confidentiality.

## 6. Fostering good relations

Our Trust aims to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it by:

- Promoting acceptance, belonging, friendship and understanding of a range of religions and cultures through different aspects of the curriculum. This includes teaching in RE and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, but also activities in other curriculum areas. For example, as part of teaching and learning in English and reading, learners will be introduced to literature from a range of cultures.
- Holding assemblies dealing with relevant issues. Learners will be encouraged to take a lead in such assemblies, and we will also invite external speakers to contribute in line with our No Platform Policy.
- Making sure learners work with their local community. This includes each academy inviting leaders of local faith groups to speak at assemblies and organising academy trips and activities based around the local community.
- Encouraging and implementing initiatives to deal with tensions between different groups of learners within each academy. For example, academy councils have representatives from different year groups and are formed of learners from a range of backgrounds. All learners are encouraged to

participate in their academies' activities, such as sports clubs. Academies also work with parents and carers to promote knowledge and understanding of different cultures.

- Academies develop links with people and groups who have specialist knowledge about particular characteristics, which helps inform and develop how they implement their approach.

In our recruitment processes, where possible have representation of protected characteristics on interview panels.

## 7. Equality considerations in decision-making

Our Trust ensures it has due regard to equality considerations whenever significant decisions are made.

In all of our academies, we will always consider the impact of significant decisions on particular groups. For example, when an academy trip or activity is being planned, the academy considers whether the trip:

- Cuts across any religious holidays
- Is accessible to learners with disabilities
- Has equivalent facilities for all learners irrespective of their gender

## 8. Equality objectives

**Objective 1:** Undertake an analysis of recruitment data and trends with regard to race, gender and disability by July of each year, and report on this to the Human Resources Committee via the agreed HR dashboards and narrative. Include analysis of promotion and progression by colleagues with protected characteristics.

### Trust Objective

**Why we have chosen this objective:** although our gender pay gap is decreasing, it is not yet good enough. Our current staffing and leadership profile does not yet fully reflect our local communities.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** highlight areas for action with our LGBs and our Trust Board to influence recruitment and retention policies and appropriate changes; raise leadership awareness still further to ensure that progression and promotion are equally accessed.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** Our gender pay gap is decreasing. Our awareness of the need to address this issue has grown significantly.

**Objective 2:** Promote our family as a 'Disability Confident' employer and our status on all job adverts, to help address the under-representation of people with disabilities in our workforce.

### Trust Objective

**Why we have chosen this objective:** to improve the under-representation of people with disabilities across our Trust by increasing applications from people with disabilities.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Continue to ensure the 'Disability Confident' logo is included on all job adverts from September 2023.

Progress we are making towards this objective: Discussion and consultation underway.

**Objective 3:** Increase the representation of staff members from non-white British communities over a 4-year period (running to July 2026 in 3 years' time), so that this group increases from 34% to 55% of the Summit workforce including leadership.

### Trust and Academy Objective

**Why we have chosen this objective:** we need to ensure that our staff body better reflects the same body in terms of ethnic heritage to ensure that learners see strong representation in our profession. This is not positive discrimination; the best candidate will always be appointed regardless of their background.

To achieve this objective we plan to: Use the analysis from Objective 1 to inform a recruitment action plan and policy to be put in place from September 2024. We will review our advertising language and process to ensure that high calibre colleagues are attracted to work in our Trust.

Progress we are making towards this objective: Awareness raising and review of policies underway.

**Objective 4:** Train all members of staff, governors and trustees involved in recruitment and selection on equal opportunities and non-discrimination by the beginning of the next academic year. Training evaluation data will show that 100% of those attending have a good understanding of the legal requirements.

#### **Central Trust and Academy objective**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** to support our work on improving representation of those with protected characteristics across our Trust through raising awareness and ensuring systemic delivery of nondiscriminatory processes.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** ensure training is in place in Autumn 2024.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** planning training sessions for those involved in interviewing.

**Objective 5:** Train all learners and staff members on the '9 Protected Characteristics' and the role of being an ally. To ensure that this is not just seen as a superficial exercise but an integral part of academy life, and learners will be taught this explicitly in the academic and personal development curriculum.

#### **Academy objective**

**Why we have chosen this objective:** to improve the experience of any of community who associate with one or more of the protected characteristics and to encourage greater participation as an ally from our learners within the academy and beyond. This is also the law and stakeholders need to understand the potential consequences to these actions.

**To achieve this objective, we plan to:** continue to embed DEI into the curriculum, continue in promoting messages of respect for others, promote being an ally, raise awareness of diversity and the 9 protected characteristics and begin our application to become an accredited anti-racist academy.

**Progress we are making towards this objective:** we are focusing on the 9 protected characteristics in a personal development curriculum, further develop the DEI philosophy into our academic curriculum and developing our use of academy and community voice in this area. In addition to this we are looking at the introduction and promotion of designated safe spaces.

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The CEO will update the equality information we publish, described in sections 4-7 above, at least every year.

This document will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees at least every 2 years.

The equality objectives will be reviewed by the CEO and published at least once every 2 years.

Academy-specific equality objectives will be reviewed by the Principal and Chair of LGB every 2 years.

This document will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Academy-specific equality objectives will be approved by LGB.