

Davidson Training UK Limited

Equality and Diversity Policy

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Equality and Diversity Policy

Equality & Diversity Policy

Policy Statement

Davidson Training UK Ltd actively promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work and aims to provide an environment where all individuals have the opportunity to achieve their full potential with a feeling of self-esteem. It will eliminate unfair discrimination through a zero-tolerance approach, regular target setting and monitoring and the development of positive action programmes.

Davidson Training UK Ltd is committed to achieving a working environment, both as an employer and as a training provider, which promotes, encourages equal opportunities, diversity and eliminates discrimination.

We are committed, wherever practicable, to achieving and maintaining a workforce that broadly reflects the local community to which we provide services.

The company believes and recognises that the diversity of communities is a huge asset that should be valued and seen as one of the community's strengths. As a provider of training to local people we are committed to providing equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination, harassment and intimidation, and disadvantage. We are also committed to providing the highest quality standard in training delivery, decision making and employment practice.

Equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and workforce is an integral part of this commitment.

The company aims to be responsive to providing good quality and efficient services. An essential part of providing a good quality service is making sure that everyone has equal access to services and employment opportunities.

Every employee, learner and subcontractor has a responsibility to act in a manner that upholds and follows the spirit and intention of the strategy.

Statement of Commitment:

We are committed to equality and to make fair treatment an important part of everything we do. We make this commitment because we want to provide the best service we can to the community and because we value the contribution that our employees make to achieve this.

- Davidson Training UK Ltd seeks to create an accessible training provision and will take positive action to create a supportive and relevant learning and working environment in which all have the opportunity to achieve their potential.
- Davidson Training UK Ltd will provide education and training to all staff and learners in implementation of equality and diversity.
- Davidson Training UK Ltd recognises that passive support for equality and diversity is not sufficient as inequalities created by indirect discrimination, victimisation, harassment, segregation and stereotyping, affects everyone. Challenging inequality must be the responsibility of all members of Davidson Training UK Ltd staff.
- Davidson Training UK Ltd will develop and embed equality objectives and impact assessment throughout the organisation.

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- To promote equality of opportunity for all and recognise and celebrate diversity
- To provide an environment that is free from discrimination in any form, for our employees, learners and any other persons who have contact with the organisation
- To provide a harassment free environment and to take determined action under our disciplinary procedures to remove any direct or indirect discrimination which may occur
- To accept our obligations in the spirit and intention of the various statutory legislation, Acts of Parliament and codes of practice which promote the ethos of equality and diversity.

Legislation

- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Employment Rights Act 1996
- Public Interest Disclosures Act 1998
- Data Protect Act 1998
- Working Time Regulations 1998
- National Minimum Wage Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Part Time Workers Regulations 2000
- Education Act 2002 – Child Protection

Purpose

Our aim is to create a culture that respects, values and celebrates differences, that promotes dignity, equality and diversity, and that encourages individuals to develop and maximise their true potential irrespective of

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation.

We will strive to provide equality and fairness for all employees and in the provision of services and to ensure that we do not discriminate and are committed to comply with legislation and best practice in respect of equality of opportunities. We strongly oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All employees, whether part-time, full-time or temporary, will be treated fairly and with respect. Selection for employment, promotion, training, or any other benefit will be on the basis of skills and ability.

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We aim to make sure that services are provided fairly to all sections of our community recognising the multiplicity of individuals and respecting these, and that all of our existing and future employees have equal opportunities taking into account their range of personalities and needs.

We will take action to identify and irradiate direct or indirect discriminatory practices, which act as barriers to achieving these aims.

In driving forward this policy we will:

- Seek to ensure that our workforce reflects the diverse communities that we serve and that every employee is treated fairly during the whole of their working life.
- Take action to eradicate discrimination and inequality when delivering services.
- Fulfil our obligations by adopting legal, national and local guidelines that seek to ensure equality of opportunity, eradicate discrimination and promote good relations between all the communities in which we deliver services.
- Evaluate the impact of our policies, services and functions on communities and make changes to them were they impact unfairly or adversely on any group/s.
- Make equalities an every-day working practice and train our employees to carry out this policy.
- Set challenging equality objectives and targets in relation to employment, service delivery and the carrying out of our functions.
- Seek to make it possible for everyone in the community to participate fully in the life of their local area.
- Make any changes necessary to our working practices and publicly available information so that the company and its services are available to all citizens.
- Work with others to stamp out harassment and intimidation.
- Use our influence to help make equality a reality for all and to rid prejudice, discrimination and disadvantage.
- Consult with people from all diverse communities to help shape the services that we deliver and our policies and practices.
- Consider the needs of all the communities in the methods that we use for communicating with clients, employees and residents in the community.

As a company that delivers training services we want to be:

- An influential company with a strong voice in the community in which we serve to benefit the people of the community.
- A modern company with a diverse and growing economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all local people.
- A vibrant company that celebrates diversity, creativity and culture in all the local communities.
- A fair company where good care training is available to all, allowing everyone to benefit from learning and wider opportunities.
- Working in partnership with professionals to enable everyone to live in safety, free from fear, harassment and intimidation.
- Promoting “green” environments which can be sustained for future generations.

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Our ultimate goal is to be a cosmopolitan company that values learning, creativity and enterprise where diversity of our clients and employees is celebrated and there are opportunities for all to prosper.

Scope

This policy applies to all directors, employees, learners, volunteers and other users of our services.

Equal Opportunity

Davidson Training UK Ltd are committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all and require all employees, of any grade or authority, to abide by and adhere to this general principle. Every effort will be made to ensure that all practices and procedures follow and exceed the legal requirements and good practice as recommended by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

Davidson Training UK Ltd aim to ensure a working environment where:

1. Dignity and respect for all is promoted.
2. Individual differences and contributions are recognised and valued.
3. Discrimination, intimidation, victimisation, bullying or harassment are not tolerated in any format.
4. Decisions are based on merit, qualifications and abilities.
5. All people are able to give their best

Davidson Training UK Ltd aims to be an equal opportunities employer and provider of services. No job applicant, employee or user of our services should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; sex; marital status or caring responsibility; sexual orientation; age; physical, sensory or learning disability; mental health; political or religious beliefs; class; HIV status; employment status; unrelated criminal convictions; union activities. Nor will such person be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable. This principle applies to service provision, recruitment, promotion, transfers, training, benefits, facilities, procedures and all terms and conditions of employment.

Davidson Training UK Ltd are committed to challenge any form of discrimination it encounters. Any employee, learner or user of our services with questions or concerns about equality and discrimination or with knowledge of breach(s) of this policy will be encouraged to bring such issues to the attention of the directors or management team as soon as they are able either informally or as part of the Comments and Complaints procedure.

Diversity

Davidson Training UK Ltd will endeavour to deliver services in a way that genuinely recognises the importance of a diverse and inclusive society. We will promote working practices that deliver opportunities and access, not barriers to learners.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will actively encourage diversity to maximise achievement, creativity and good practice and to bring benefit to individuals and their communities.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will encourage all employees, learners and other users of our services to contribute to an environment in which people feel comfortable expressing how

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they feel and what they need, knowing they will be treated with respect and that their opinions and contributions will be valued.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will make reasonable adjustments to working practices, equipment and premises and offer, where appropriate, additional support to employees to ensure they are able to take a full and active part in our service delivery.

Promoting British Values

Davidson Training UK Ltd is committed to the promotion of British Values in line with the 2014 government initiative of the same name.

In line with Department for Education guidance, Davidson Training UK Ltd will promote and integrate the following British Values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respect of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Davidson Training UK Ltd seeks to implement the promotion of British Values in all sections of the company to ensure that effective equality and diversity provision is present throughout the business.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Managing Director has overall responsibility for the implementation of this strategy, however it is recognised that it is the collective responsibility of all persons connected with the organisation to contribute to the implementation of this strategy.

Managers at every level have responsibility to ensure that the equality and diversity strategy is upheld. Line Managers are responsible for ensuring fairness and impartiality in selection, managing and developing employees.

Individual employees are responsible for ensuring that learners are treated equally and fairly. Trainers are responsible for signposting the policy to the learners and implementing the procedures with their allocated learners and other users of our service.

Board of Directors

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to:

- Oversee the promotion, development, implementation and monitoring of the Equality and Diversity Strategy and annually review the impact of the policy.
- Ensure that the company complies with its statutory obligations under The Equality Act 2010.
- Review regular reports on achievement of the Equality Objectives.
- Receive yearly reports on impact assessment across the organisation.
- Learners are responsible for following the principles of equality & diversity in their working practices and interaction with their assessors and other learners.

The Management Team

It is the responsibility of managers to:

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- Ensure that Davidson Training UK Ltd complies with its statutory obligations with regard to Equality and Diversity.
- To ensure a thorough induction to both staff and learners to raise awareness and understanding of Davidson Training UK Ltd E&D policy and implementation arrangements, the standards expected and their responsibilities in relation to these.
- Ensure all relevant staff complete E&D training at Induction and annually thereafter
- Ensure all Apprentices receive E&D training at induction and then regular reinforcement during training sessions and at reviews.
- Carry out regular impact assessments.
- Develop strategies and set targets for implementing effective equality and diversity practices.
- Ensure that learners have equal access to training.
- Ensure that recruitment and selection of staff and learners is non-discriminatory.
- Ensure that staff have equal access to training and development opportunities.
- Ensure that staff are appropriately trained on equality and diversity issues.
- Ensure that all learners are made aware of Davidson Training UK Ltd Equality and Diversity Strategy.
- Monitor data collected on equality and diversity at regular intervals.
- Produce annual impact assessment for the organisation.
- Promote good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Ensure that Davidson Training UK Ltd complies with its equality and diversity strategy for staff and learners.
- Ensure that learners and staff are made aware that substantiated acts of discrimination will be treated as disciplinary offences and dealt with under the appropriate procedures.
- Ensure that any allegations of discrimination are properly investigated, and that appropriate action is taken.
- Ensure that sufficient records are kept enabling the effective monitoring of equality and diversity issues.

Employees

It is the responsibility of all Davidson Training UK Ltd employees, including managers, to:

- Comply with Davidson Training UK Ltd statutory requirements with regard to equality and diversity.
- Comply with Davidson Training UK Ltd Equality and Diversity Strategy.
- Undergo training on equality and diversity issues.
- Maintain, where applicable, sufficient records to enable the effective monitoring of equality and diversity issues.
- Bring any allegations of discrimination to the attention of the appropriate manager, in accordance with college procedures.
- Ensure that schemes of work, lesson content and teaching resources demonstrate sensitivity to issues of cultural diversity, gender and disability.
- Promote good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

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Learners

It is the responsibility of all Davidson Training UK Ltd learners to:

- Comply with Davidson Training UK Ltd statutory requirements with regard to equality and diversity.
- Undergo awareness raising on equality and diversity issues.
- Bring any allegations of discrimination to the attention of the appropriate manager, in accordance with procedures.
- Respect and develop good relationships between people from different racial groups.

Policy Implementation – Procedures

General implementation

We will do this by:

- Meeting our responsibilities for equal opportunities in relevant legislation, codes of practice and company policies and strategies.
- Making equality a mainstream of our work. This means making sure that all aspects of what we do, such as our policies, plans and practices and procedures, reflect and incorporate equality objectives and targets.
- Setting challenging quality objectives and targets in relation to employment, service delivery and the carrying out of our functions.
- Tackling all forms of bullying, harassment and intimidation.
- Taking positive action to address social, economic and geographical disadvantage.
- Making equalities the responsibility of directors and every employee of the company.
- Use the “Social Model of Disability” as the basis of our work to promote equality of opportunity for and to tackle discrimination against disabled people.
- Offer a range of ways for clients to obtain our services and information.
- Improving the diversity of our workforce so that it truly reflects the company’s client base.
- Work with Local Diverse communities to tackle disadvantage and discrimination.

Recruitment, Selection and Promotion

All potential employees will be given equal opportunities through the recruitment and selections processes. This will be attained by:

- Advertising vacancies sufficiently to reach the widest possible range of applicants, both internal and/or external and ensuring that all recruitment material does not imply any preferred group, unless a genuine occupational qualification exists limiting a post to a particular group.
- Advice will be sought to ensure that job titles and personal specifications and job descriptions that may include ‘essential’ and ‘desirable’ requirements that are necessary and justifiable, are not discriminatory.
- Giving potential employees the opportunity to complete paper based or computerised application forms. We will also endeavour to provide, on request, application forms in different languages, on different coloured papers or in different size or coloured fonts.

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- Ensuring that applicants with a criminal record are treated according to their merits and to any special criteria of the post (unless the offence excludes them from working with the client base).
- Ensuring that all application forms that are received for shortlisting will have personal information such as date of birth and sex removed to ensure that the short listing panel or person will not select candidates on the basis of the gender, name, possible disability or age of the applicant.
- Being committed to ensuring interview panels/people do not ask discriminatory questions unrelated to the requirements of the job, e.g. race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; sex; marital status or caring responsibility; sexual orientation; age; physical, sensory or learning disability; mental health; political or religious beliefs; class; HIV status; employment status; unrelated criminal convictions; union activities.
- Endeavouring to recruit a diverse workforce to reflect the diversity of our client base.

Training

Our employees are required to comply with and support our policies in relation to equality. Failure to do so may result in action being taken against employees.

- All new employees will be encouraged to read the equality and diversity policy as part of their induction training and are made aware of how it effects their work.
- All employees will be required to attend on-going regular equality and diversity training updates to ensure their continued understanding of their rights, roles and responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity law and the companies' policy. This is considered mandatory training.
- Appropriate training will be provided to enable employees to perform their jobs effectively. The training offered will take into account the needs of all people and we will not discriminate in the provision of training courses/ opportunities wherever possible.
- All employees will be supported to understand any action plans relevant to them and their responsibilities for implementing them.

Users of our services

- We will endeavour to ensure that our service users reflect the community in which we provide services.
- We will strive to ensure that they and their employers are aware of our equality and diversity policy and their responsibilities to comply as applicable with this policy.
- We will endeavour that our advertising materials conform with equality and diversity legislation and do not imply any preferred group.

Complaints and discrimination

- Davidson Training UK Ltd will not treat lightly or ignore grievances from members of disadvantaged groups on the assumption that they are over-sensitive about discrimination
- Any employee that feels that they have been subject to discrimination by either the company, another employee or a user of our services will be encouraged to report the issue. Any such reports will be taken seriously and will be investigated through the Grievance Procedure.

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- Failure to comply with the equal opportunities and diversity policy and proven acts of direct discrimination will be handled under the companies Disciplinary Procedure
- Any complaints of discrimination raised by a learner/user of our services will be taken seriously and will be handled by the Complaints Procedure
- Any job applicant that believes they may have been treated unfairly should raise the issue with the Training Operations Manager or another director if they feel the Training Operations Manager is at fault.
- Any incidents of indirect or inadvertent discrimination will be investigated by the Training Operations Manager, who will determine if they should be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure.
- Where incidents of victimisation and harassment by employees are proven, they will be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure. Where incidents of victimisation and harassment by learners or users of our services are proven, the issue will be dealt with through their employer.

Other Plans and Strategies

We will ensure that equality and diversity aims are reflected in all plans and strategies that form our infrastructure.

Promote equality and diversity within partnership working.

We will work with other organisations to develop plans jointly to promote equality of opportunity and to tackle discrimination and disadvantage.

We will learn from the equality and diversity policies and plans of other organisations.

Monitoring

- This policy will be reviewed annually
- All Davidson Training UK Ltd policies will be reviewed yearly, this will include ensuring they don't contravene this policy and the equality and diversity legislation and guidance.

We act in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Elimination of Sex Discrimination issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission, and the Code of Practice on the Employment of Disabled People, issued by the Employment Service and we ensure compliance of this part of the code by all employees.

We welcome comments and suggestions at any time. Please contact our Management Team if you wish to discuss this policy or make any comments or suggestions on the work that we are aiming to carry out under this policy.

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Annex B

THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

- **Disability**

The Equality Act 2010 aims to end discrimination suffered by people with disabilities and gives rights in the areas of employment and access to goods, facilities and services. The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as someone with 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.”

Davidson Training UK Ltd will ensure that it does not treat disabled employees or learners less favourably. Reasonable adjustments will be made for employees and learners including those who become disabled during their employment/ training. The Equality Act 2010 introduced the right for applicants or learners with disabilities not to be discriminated against in education, training and any services provided wholly or mainly for students.

- **Race**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against someone on the basis of their race, colour, ethnicity, ethnic origin or national origin. The Equality Act 2010 places a general duty on public authorities to promote race equality.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will not tolerate any form of racial harassment and whilst not a public authority, will work towards complying with the Racial Equality Act.

- **Gender**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for employers and other organisations to treat a person less favourably on the basis of their gender.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will not discriminate against employees/ learners on the basis of their gender in the recruitment and selection for training programmes or in the way it provides access to benefits, facilities and services.

- **Sexual Orientation and Religion or Belief**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and religion or belief.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will not discriminate against employees or learners on the basis of their sexual orientation or religion or belief in the recruitment and selection of employees/ learners or in a way it provides access to benefits, facilities and services.

- **Age**

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate in the workplace and in vocational training on the basis of a person’s age.

Davidson Training UK Ltd will not discriminate against employees or learners on the basis of their age in the recruitment and selection of employees/ learners or in the way it provides access to benefits, facilities and services.

- **Ex-Offenders**

No discrimination shall be made in respect of ex-offenders in line with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. However, discretion will be exercised where it is felt that a recent or serious conviction may mean that a person presents a risk to others with whom the employee/learner would have contact. This discretion will be exercised by the Director of Learning.

Certain roles within Davidson Training UK Ltd require the completion of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Where these are required, they will be completed in line with DBS regulations and any information will be strictly confidential.

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Reviewed October 2023

Reviewed by: Lorraine Bunyard

Position: Managing Director

Date:

Signature: