

Equal Opportunities Policy

Statement of Policy

We believe that all people are created equal in the sight of God, and we seek to promote all the organisation's activities in ways which recognise and encourage that principle.

We recognise that discrimination is unacceptable and have made the decision to adopt a formal equal opportunities policy. Breaches of the policy will lead to disciplinary proceedings and, if appropriate, disciplinary action.

The aim of the policy is to ensure no job applicant, employee or volunteer is discriminated against either directly or indirectly on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religious belief, political opinion or affiliation, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age or disability.

Notwithstanding the above, it may be a requirement for some paid and volunteer roles within the Church that the applicant be a practising Christian, under the "occupational requirement" regulations of the Equality Act.

We will ensure that the policy is circulated to any agencies responsible for our recruitment and a copy of the policy will be made available for all employees and volunteers, and made known to all applicants for employment.

The policy will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate statutory requirements and full account will be taken of all available guidance and in particular any relevant Codes of Practice.

Everyone who is part of the Church has individual responsibility under this policy to ensure that the service they deliver and their behaviour towards other staff, volunteers, church members, and all those they come into contact with in the course of their duties is both fair and lawful, irrespective of the position held by them.

Everyone who is part of the Church should ensure that the language they use, the behaviour they adopt, and the working environment they create is non-threatening and non-discriminatory so as to preserve dignity and respect for all, regardless of race, religion, sex, sexuality, marital status, age, employment status, political persuasion, mental or physical health, or criminal convictions.

Training and promotion

Staff and volunteers will receive training in the application of this policy to ensure that they are aware of its contents and provisions.

All promotion will be in line with this policy.

Monitoring

We will maintain and review the employment records of all employees and volunteers in order to monitor the progress of this policy.

Monitoring may involve recording recruitment, training and promotional records of all employees, the decisions reached, and the reason for those decisions.

The results of any monitoring procedure will be reviewed at regular intervals to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy. Consideration will be given, if necessary, to adjusting this policy to afford greater equality of opportunities to all applicants and volunteers.