



“Enabling Students to Accomplish their Academic Goal”

Equality and Diversity Policy

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1 Introduction

Bellmont College is committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities and aims to establish an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect.

The institution will support and develop the staff and student populations through providing all with access to facilities, personal and career development opportunities, employment and study on the basis of equality. Belmont College is committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation and to fostering good relations between different groups.

This commitment supports the organisational principles of Belmont College and upholds the ethos of establishing a culture based on dignity, courtesy and respect.

This policy builds upon the foundation of equality legislation and anti-discrimination guidance and strives, not only to comply with legal requirements, but to use these to ensure that Belmont College endeavours to exemplify best practice.

The Belmont College values diversity and recognises that the institution is greatly enhanced by the disparate range of backgrounds, experiences, views, beliefs and cultures represented within its staff and student populations. The institution aims to embrace diversity in all of its activities and proudly acknowledges that variety and difference are intrinsic to the wellbeing and future development of Belmont College.

The Equality and Diversity policy underpins the Mission of Belmont College and is integral to the success of the institution as a world-class School and an employer of choice.

This is an over-arching policy designed to outline the fundamental principles of Belmont College's commitment to equality and diversity and will be supported by specific equality policies and action plans.

The policy applies to all students and applicants, to all applicants for posts with Belmont College, to all staff employed on a full time or part-time basis, to all staff on permanent or temporary contracts, to agency staff, to volunteer title/contract holders and visitors undertaking duties in the name of the Belmont College and to sub-contractors undertaking work on the Belmont College site and all visitors to Belmont College.

2 Legislative Background

Under Equality legislation it is unlawful to:

- discriminate directly against anyone and treat him/her less favourably than others on the grounds of the protected characteristics of: age (unless this can be justified as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim), disability (including discrimination arising from a disability and failure to make reasonable adjustments), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation. This also includes discrimination based on perception of the person e.g., a belief that someone is gay or a belief that someone is disabled even if this is not actually true.
- discriminate against someone for reasons relating to their association with a person on the grounds of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender

reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation e.g. discriminating against an employee/student because they have a disabled dependant.

- discriminate indirectly against anyone by applying a criterion, provision or practice which disadvantages people with a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation) unless the person applying the provision can justify it as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- subject someone to harassment for reasons relating to age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation. This includes behaviour that an individual finds offensive on these grounds even if the behaviour is not directed at the individual. It is unlawful to treat a person less favourably because they either submit to, or reject, sexual harassment or harassment related to their sex. An employer also has responsibilities relating to harassment of employees by third parties as outlined in the Dignity at Work and Study Policy.
- victimise someone because s/he has made, or intends to make, a complaint or allegation or has given or intends to give evidence in relation to a complaint of discrimination in line with the Equality Act.

3 Objectives

The aim of this policy is to ensure that in carrying out its activities Belmont College will have due regard to:

- eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advancing equality of opportunity, across all the activities of Belmont College between different groups
- fostering good relations between people of a diverse background

In the implementation of this policy Belmont College will aim to:

- develop and promote a culture of equality and diversity throughout the institution.
- develop and promote a culture of dignity, courtesy and respect.
- support all staff and students, including provision of relevant support relating to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation.
- work to prevent all forms of unlawful discrimination.
- deal with all forms of discrimination consistently and effectively.
- ensure that the Equality and Diversity policy influences and informs the culture of Belmont College.

4 Definitions

- I. **Equal opportunities** refers to the elimination of unlawful and unfair direct and indirect discrimination of particular groups and promoting equal access, treatment and outcomes that take into account specific needs of individuals.

- II. **Diversity** encompasses visible and non-visible individual differences that includes, but is not limited to, differences protected by anti-discrimination legislation. Appreciating diversity is about valuing differences and recognising that everyone through their unique mixture of skills and experience has their own valuable contribution to make.

It is the aim of Belmont College that individuals and groups within the institution are not only treated on the basis of equality, but that their diverse contributions to the academic, social and cultural life of the Belmont College are recognised and developed.

5 Roles and Responsibilities

It is incumbent upon all members of Belmont College to behave with dignity, courtesy and respect and to act in a manner that does not unlawfully discriminate at all times.

5.1 Role of Staff

- to actively to encourage non-discriminatory practices and to report any incidences of behaviour that fail to comply with this policy.
- to support the aims of Belmont College's Equality and Diversity policy.
- to undertake appropriate equality and diversity training.

5.2 Role of Students

- actively to encourage non-discriminatory practices and to report any incidences of behaviour that fail to comply with this policy.
- to support the aims of Belmont College Equality and Diversity policy.
- to be aware of equality and diversity issues.

5.3 Role of Human Resources

- to provide appropriate equality and diversity awareness and training for all staff.
- to support Heads of School/Administrative Directorates in implementing the policy.
- to ensure that recruitment advertising, selection and appointment procedures, performance management processes and disciplinary grievance processes are fair and transparent and are consistently applied.
- to monitor employment equality data and to publish the findings of monitoring activity, as appropriate.

5.4 Role of Heads at Belmont College/ Administrative Directorate

- to ensure that all members of staff within the School/Administrative Directorate receive the appropriate equality and diversity training.
- to investigate all matters of alleged discrimination, harassment and inappropriate behaviour promptly and thoroughly.
- to ensure that selection and appointment procedures, performance management processes, staff development opportunities and disciplinary and grievance processes are fairly and consistently applied to all staff.

- to treat all applications for flexible practices on a fair and equitable basis and to provide reasonable and objective reasons when such requests must be refused.
- to ensure that selection and admissions procedures, assessment processes, career development opportunities and disciplinary and complaints procedures are fairly and consistently applied to all students within the School/Administrative Directorate.
- to ensure that equality and diversity issues are considered as part of the School/Divisional planning processes.

5.5 Role of Equality and Diversity Committee (or successor body)

- to advise designated team on legal compliance and best practice in all matters relating to equality and diversity.
- to devise and recommend policies, procedures and action plans to ensure that all legislative requirements are met and best practice adopted.
- to collect and review data relevant to diversity and equality matters relating to students or employees on a regular basis and recommend changes to policies and procedures as appropriate.
- to advise on the provision of appropriate training and awareness-raising in relation to all equal opportunities and diversity matters.

5.6 Role of Chief Executive Officer for Staff and Diversity

- to provide leadership in the operation and implementation of the Equality and Diversity policy.
- to be accountable for the actions of Bellmont College management (or successor body) in relation to this policy.

5.7 Role of Bellmont College's Senior Management Team (SMT)

- to encourage, foster and promote a culture of equality and diversity in the institution.
- to ensure consistency of this policy with other policies and initiatives, making recommendations and providing advice on implementation of the policy.

5.8 Role of Advisory Board

- to control the financial and budgetary resources required to implement this policy.
- to integrate equality and diversity considerations into corporate planning.

5.9 Role of Management

- to take responsibility for equality and diversity issues in relation to the academic management of the institution.

5.10 Role of Committee

- to hold ultimate accountability for the Equality and Diversity policy.

5.11 Role of Committee Chairs

- to ensure that equality and diversity issues are mainstreamed into the work of committees.

5.12 Role of Managers/ Course Leaders

- to ensure that they work to promote equality and diversity as an integral part of the services they provide and the policies and procedures they both develop and apply.

6 Application of the Policy: Staff

6.1 Recruitment and Selection

- recruitment advertising will encourage applications from all sectors of the community reflecting the Belmont College's commitment to equality and diversity.
- recruitment advertising will appear in publications appropriate to the audience capable of producing the best candidates (subject to budget considerations).
- job descriptions, person specifications and recruitment advertisements will be written on the basis of the essential and justifiable requirements of the position.
- shortlisting, appointment and rejection decisions will be transparent and justifiable and will be supported by written comments.

6.2 Grading and Promotion

- all grading and promotions criteria and procedures will be free from prejudice and must be applied equitably and consistently.

6.3 Staff Development

- all staff will have equal access to induction, personal and career development opportunities and facilities.

6.4 Performance Management

- probation and appraisal procedures will be clear and transparent and will be applied fairly across all staff.

6.5 Discipline and Grievance

- disciplinary and grievance procedures will be applied fairly and transparently for all staff.
- allegations of discrimination, harassment or inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary procedures for staff.

7 Application of the Policy: Students

7.1 Recruitment, Selection and Admission

- all information contained in prospectuses, websites and other material used in the recruitment of students should promote equality of opportunity and make reference to this policy where necessary.
- all staff involved in the recruitment, selection and admission of students will have an awareness of equality and diversity.

7.2 Assessment

- there will be clear, consistent and transparent criteria for student assessments and all assessments will take place on an equal opportunities basis.

7.3 Career Planning and Participation

- all students will have access to career planning support and will be encouraged to participate fully in the academic, cultural and social life at Bellmont College.

7.4 Discipline and Student Complaints

- discipline and student complaints procedures will be applied fairly and transparently for all students.
- allegations of harassment or discrimination will be dealt with under the Student Disciplinary Code.

8 Training

Equality and diversity awareness raising and training will be mandatory for all staff. Information will be provided to all students in order to raise awareness of equality and diversity and the contents of this policy.

9 Communication

This policy will normally be available at the Bellmont College's administrative office. It will also be available in printed form on request.

10 Monitoring

Statistics will be gathered to monitor equality across all aspects of Bellmont College processes and will be used to inform future practice.

11 Confidentiality

Any information disclosed to the institution in relation equality and diversity issues will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with legislative requirements.

12 Breach of Policy

Contravention of the Equality and Diversity policy will be treated as a disciplinary matter and offenders will be dealt with under the Bellmont College's staff disciplinary policies or the Student Disciplinary Code as appropriate.

13 Revision

This policy will be revised on a 3-year basis or when relevant new legislation comes into place.

14 Sources of Further Guidance

Equality Act 2010

Human Rights Act 1998

Equality & Human Rights Commission: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Bellmont College Belmont College Equality and Diversity Policy					
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2	February 2024	EWV	Revised no update or changes made	Advisory Board	October 2024
3	October 2024	EWV	Revised Document	Advisory Board	October 2025

Document context	
This document relates to:	
Document/Policy	Date/version
Bellmont College Quality Assurance Handbook	October 2024 v3
Bellmont College Student Handbook	October 2024 v3
Bellmont College Employee Handbook	October 2024 v3
Bellmont College Recruitment, Selection and Admission Policy	October 2024 v3
Bellmont College Accreditation of Prior Learning	October 2024 v3
Bellmont College Reasonable Adjustment & Special Considerations Policy	October 2024 v3