



Equality Policy

Reference: PSED001

Equality Policy – Management of Requirements and Compliance with the Law

Approved by Governing Body on 24 April 2025

Next Review TT27

1. Introduction

St Edmund Hall fully supports the aims of the Equality Act 2010 and has due regard in its decision making to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other prohibited conduct;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, by
 - Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people with various protected characteristics
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of persons with a relevant protected characteristic where they are different from the needs of other people
 - Encouraging persons with a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or other activities where their participation is low
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, by
 - Tackling prejudice
 - Promoting understanding between different groups.

2. Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 covers nine protected characteristics to which all three aims of the general equality duty set out above (eliminating discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations) apply:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership (only in relation to eliminating discrimination in employment)
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins)
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

3. Scope & Responsibility

St Edmund Hall welcomes diversity among its staff, students, alumni and visitors, recognising that particular contributions to the achievement of the College's mission which can be made by individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

St Edmund Hall aims to provide an inclusive environment which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected, to assist them in reaching their full potential. The College will work to remove any barriers which might deter people of the highest potential and ability from applying to the College, either as staff or students.





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The College is committed to using its best endeavours to ensure that all of its activities are governed by the principles of equality and opportunity. As far as is practicable, no prospective or actual student or member of staff will unjustifiably be treated less favourably than any other, whether before, during or after their study or employment in respect to any of the protected characteristics.

With regard to students, this policy applies, but is not limited to, admissions, teaching, learning and research provision, scholarships, grants and other awards and benefits under the College's control, student support and welfare, access to College accommodation, personal conduct and student complaints and disciplinary procedures.

The College expects all its staff, students and visitors to take personal responsibility for familiarising themselves with this policy and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner towards other staff, students (prospective, current and former) and visitors. Members of the College community have a duty to treat colleagues with respect at all times, and not to discriminate against, victimise or harass other students, members of staff or visitors. The College regards any breach of this policy by any employee(s) or student(s) as a serious matter to be dealt with through its agreed procedures and which may result in disciplinary action.

The General Equality Duty also applies to procurement and commissioning, regardless of the value of the contract. St Edmund Hall is committed to working with its suppliers to ensure that they are working within the requirements of the Duty.

St Edmund Hall is a College in the University of Oxford and works closely with the University's Equality and Diversity Unit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/.

Specific Responsibilities & Reporting Structure

The Governing Body of St Edmund Hall holds overall accountability for the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty, via the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Fellow, who is supported by other key players such as the Senior Tutor, Senior Dean, HR Manager, Welfare Dean, College Registrar and the Accommodation Manager; and will do so via the following means:

1. St Edmund Hall Equality & Public Sector Equality Duty

The collation of this report is managed by the General Purposes and Bursarial Committee which meets six times per year (two per term).

2. College Equality Report

St Edmund Hall will complete this for publication each January as required by legislation. The Secretary of the GPBC (Domestic Bursar) will collate the report during Michaelmas Term for the 2nd GPBC in November each year, for presentation and sign off by Governing Body as per the schedule in PSED004.





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3. Policy Development and Review

All policies are reviewed every three years to ensure that they remain current and comply with all relevant legislation.

4. Recruitment Monitoring

This is managed on an on-going basis by the HR Manager. A yearly report will be completed at the end of Trinity Term (based on the previous year's data) and submitted to the Domestic Bursar who will report to the 12th week GB. Further information about the College's approach to equality for current or prospective staff can be obtained from the Human Resources Manager.

5. JCR and MCR Reports

The JCR and MCR Presidents will submit a report to GB in Michaelmas Term for the previous academic year.

6. Student Admissions Equality Information

Reports are provided to the College on a regular basis by the Student Data Management and Analysis Unit of the University. Analysis of data within these reports falls within the remit of the Senior Tutor: reports will be considered as required by the Academic Committee.

7. Current Students Equality Information

Reports are provided to the College on a regular basis by the Student Data Management and Analysis Unit of the University. Analysis of data within these reports falls within the remit of the Senior Tutor: reports will be considered as required by the Academic Committee.

8. Complaints

St Edmund Hall takes seriously any breach of this policy. Disregard of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. The College encourages any prospective or current member of academic or non-academic staff or student who has a complaint concerning a breach of this policy to bring such a complaint to the College. See the College's Harassment (including Bullying) Code of Practice.





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Version Control:

Version	Date Created	Created By	Position	Authorised By	Date
1		J. Taylor	Domestic Bursar (Equality Officer)	Governing Body	21 st April 2016
2	13 th July 2017	J Taylor	Domestic Bursar (Equality Officer)	Governing Body	
3		C Charlesworth	Governance & Projects Manager	Governing Body	
4	16 th April 2025	P Fortescue	EA to the Finance Bursar and Committee Secretary	Governing Body	24 th April 2025

