

Equality and Diversity

Policy	Equality and Diversity	
Reviewer	Dr Gareth Hughes Deputy Headmaster	
Reviewed Changes	1 October 2020	Next review Summer Term 2021

Relevant SoJ information: [Equality and Diversity](#)
[Transgender Policy for Admissions](#)

GENERAL

Victoria College Jersey (VCJ) is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in line with the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013 and the Equality Act (2010) for all stakeholders including pupils, parents and staff irrespective of age, disability, gender identity, race and nationality, religion or belief, pregnancy, marriage or sexual orientation. We believe that equal opportunity is at the heart of good educational practice.

EMPLOYEES

The States of Jersey (SoJ) is committed to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of all the protected characteristics and to promote the values of equality, fairness and diversity for all. Every employee is entitled to work in an environment where intimidation will not be tolerated.

The Policy Principles (which apply to all States of Jersey policies) include diversity, to recognise the value that diversity brings to the workforce.

The Employer aims to create a working environment which enables all employees to give of their best and all decisions made are fair, transparent and based on merit.

Please refer to the hyperlink above for the States of Jersey Equality and Diversity Policy, which applies to all Victoria College staff.

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Staff Expectations

- All staff are expected to comply actively and promote equal opportunities, access and rights.
- It is the responsibility of all staff to foster and facilitate a welcoming environment in our school, which fosters equal opportunity and celebration of diversity.
- Staff will endeavour to establish an atmosphere within school which effectively challenges and reduces prejudice and raises self-esteem so that children can develop independence, freedom of choice, and knowledge of their human rights.
- Staff must recognise and challenge discrimination as and when it occurs.
- In all staff appointments, the most suitable candidate will be appointed on professional criteria and recruitment carried out in a manner consistent with equal opportunity practice, following the guidelines and training provided by the Government of Jersey. The lead member of any interview panel will have completed recruitment training.

PUPILS

All pupils are of equal value and deserve equal access to every aspect of school life. We believe in supporting the development of personal and cultural identities of all pupils, are preparing our pupils for full participation in society.

We are committed to and fully support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are an accredited UN Rights Respecting School – Bronze Level

UNCRC Article 2 – You have the right not to be discriminated against

UNCRC Article 3 – Everyone who works with children should do what is best for each child

UNCRC Article 29 – Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.

Our school core values of Respectful, Resourceful, Resilient, Aspirational, help to promote equal opportunities for all pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

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Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that all learners have equal access to a rich, broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- To advance equality of opportunity by ensuring that teaching, learning and the curriculum promote equality, celebrate diversity and promote community cohesion by fostering good relations.
- To eliminate any discrimination, harassment and victimisation. To ensure that no-one is unfairly or illegally disadvantaged as a consequence of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, colour, race, ethnic or national origin, disability or religious beliefs.
- To recognise and celebrate diversity within our community and wider society. We aim to enhance a wider sense of community locally and globally.
- To develop a positive attitude to equal opportunity by all staff, children, parents and all who participate in the life of the school.
- It is the right of every child irrespective of age, race or nationality, religion or belief, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, special needs or ability to achieve their full potential.

Strategies and action

- The school will make all reasonable adjustments to promote equal opportunity and equal treatment of all members of the school community.
- We are committed to the Rights Respecting Agenda and actively seek ways to integrate this into all aspects of our school.
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is given a high profile in the school
- We are committed to meeting the individual needs of each child and will be responsive to changing needs and requirements.
- The school actively promotes mutual respect through embedding our core value of Respect into our policies, procedures and ethos of the school.
- Where pupils fall short of our expectations, our Positive Behaviour Policy will be followed. Incidents of a discriminatory nature will be discussed with the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster and / or Housemasters, together with parents. This will be recorded in the SIMS management information system and appropriate next steps will be identified.
- Pupils are taught to be confident, strong and self-affirming in their own identity; to value and respect all children and adults; to learn from other cultures and their own; to be able to discuss, celebrate and challenge traditions and beliefs.
- The Jersey Curriculum requires breadth, balance, relevance and differentiation, which will enable each pupil to participate actively in their learning.

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- The diversity within our school and the wider community will be viewed positively by all.
- Diversity will be recognised as a positive, rich resource for teaching, learning and the curriculum.
- The positive achievements of all pupils will be celebrated and recognised.
- The curriculum at VCJ takes into account opportunities to learn about and learn from a range of cultures.
- We actively seek opportunities for pupils to take responsibility in school and to have a voice. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the Student Council, Eco Club, Student Action Group and Student Magazine.
- Assembly times regularly explore content that furthers knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and cultural beliefs as well as looking at current local and global issues.
- Personal, Social and Health Education is taught to every year group, with Years 7-9 in formal lessons once a week. Equality and diversity are part of the PHSE programme.
- Regular achievement and progress data of all pupils is scrutinised and triangulated with a range of other welfare data. Every pupils' data is monitored to ensure that all our pupils are making the best possible progress and that no specific group of pupils is underachieving. These groups include the progress and attainment of groups such as: those eligible for Jersey Premium and children with identified Special Educational Needs.
- Bursaries are available and are regularly advertised to families and the wider public.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headmaster has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with equality guidance and the effective operation of this policy, and is responsible for ensuring that:

- this policy is communicated and made readily available to staff, parents and guardians.
- this policy is implemented.
- staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support.
- appropriate action is taken in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

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