

Bodmin Road Church
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, DIVERSITY & DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

1. Background

Although this policy is essentially about equal opportunities in employment, it should be clearly stressed in this introduction that we are committed to offering all our services and our care, our help programmes and our community provision without discrimination or prejudice towards any may who desire our help. As a Christian church we note that Christ himself was fiercely opposed to all forms of smug moral or ethnic superiority and was himself flawlessly inclusive in both his teaching and practice.

Bodmin Road Church is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to ensuring within the framework of the law that the Church's places of work are free from unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex (including gender reassignment), marital status, sexual orientation, age, fixed term or part time status, religion or belief or disability.

We aim to ensure that our staff members achieve their full potential and that all employment decisions (recruitment, training, career development etc) are taken without reference to irrelevant or discriminatory criteria. We have adopted the following equal opportunity policy as a means of helping to achieve these aims.

The Leadership is committed to raising awareness of the policy to all staff and volunteers, to keeping it regularly reviewed, and to the monitoring of its effectiveness.

2. What is discrimination?

2.1 Direct discrimination occurs where someone is put at a disadvantage on discriminatory grounds in relation to his or her employment. Direct discrimination may occur even when unintentional.

Examples

- A woman with young children fails to obtain a job because it is feared that she might be an unreliable member of staff.

- An African applicant for a senior post is not appointed because he might not fit in with the existing (all white) team.

2.2 Indirect discrimination occurs where the individual's employment is subject to an unjustified condition which one sex or race/nationality finds more difficult to meet although on the face of it the condition or requirement is "neutral."

Examples

- A requirement for GCSE English as a selection criterion. This would have a disproportionately adverse impact on people educated overseas and may not be justified if all that is needed is to demonstrate a reasonable level of literacy.
- Full-time work - this would have a disproportionately adverse impact on women as they are generally accepted as taking the primary childcare role. It may not be justified if our needs can still be met by more flexible working arrangements.

2.3 Disability discrimination occurs where an individual is unjustifiably disadvantaged in employment/recruitment for a reason connected with his/her disability unless the discrimination cannot be avoided by making reasonable adjustments.

Examples

- A requirement for staff to hold a valid driving license for a job which involves little traveling.
- Failure to recruit a wheelchair user without first considering whether the working arrangements or premises can reasonably be adapted to his needs.

2.4 Harassment occurs where a person is subject to unwanted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating the person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them.

Examples

- A person is subjected to sexual innuendo or other offensive conduct of a sexual nature at work.

2.5 Victimisation occurs where an individual is treated less favourably than colleagues because he/she has taken action to assert their statutory rights or assisted a colleague with information in that regard.

3. Implementing equality of opportunity

- 3.1 Recruitment and employment decisions will be made on the basis of fair and objective criteria. Our selection procedures are reviewed from time to time to ensure that they are appropriate for achieving our objectives and for avoiding unlawful discrimination.
- 3.2 The requirements of job applicants and existing members of staff who have or have had a disability will be reviewed to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to enable them to enter into or remain in employment with us. Promotion opportunities, benefits and facilities of employment will not be unreasonably limited and every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that disabled staff participate fully in the workplace.
- 3.3 Person and job specifications will be limited to those requirements which are necessary for the effective performance of the job. Interviews will be conducted on an objective basis and personal or home commitments will not form the basis of employment decisions except where necessary.
- 3.4 Employees of the Church will be required to be Christians and to assent to the statement of faith of the Church where this is a genuine occupational requirement having regard to the nature of the work or the context in which it is carried out.
- 3.5 Appropriate training will be provided to enable staff to implement and uphold our commitment to equality of opportunity.
- 3.6 Working patterns will be reviewed so as to enable us to offer flexible working to staff where possible.
- 3.7 All staff have a right to equality of opportunity and a duty to implement this policy. Breach of this policy is potentially a serious disciplinary matter. Anyone who believes that he or she may have been disadvantaged on discriminatory grounds is entitled to raise the matter through the grievance procedure.