



Learning that Connects

# EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

**Policy date:** September 2016

**Review date:** September 2018

**Chair of Governors:** Bob Paton

**Governors Approval:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Please note that Simon Hanson is our Chair of Governors as from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## **Purpose**

Studio West is committed to the principle that every member of the school community is entitled to equal opportunities and treatment irrespective of ethnic or national origin, race, gender, physical disability, sexual orientation, marital status, social background or religion.

## **Objectives**

- To recruit appropriate staff, students and school helpers from a broad range of cultural, social and religious backgrounds and to ensure that each individual receives recognition that their identity is a valued element in a diverse and mutually supportive community.
- To actively ensure that courses and learning experiences at the school enable all individuals to develop their skills, talents and personal qualities to the full enabling them to successfully progress into further or higher education and/or employment, regardless of their age, ability, gender, sexuality, ethnic or religious background.
- To ensure that access to school facilities is provided for people with physical disabilities, to such an extent that they afford the same opportunities as for able-bodied persons.
- To encourage developments, support individuals and promote harmonious relationships between all members of the school and the wider community so that all members possess a sense of value, personal worth and dignity.
- To ensure that all employees will be afforded the opportunity to undertake training relevant to their present roles and future aspirations.
- To provide an opportunity for all members of the school community, to contribute to the decision making process.
- To safeguard all members of the school community.

All school members will share responsibility for ensuring that there are equal opportunities throughout the school. Staff training and development opportunities should be made available as appropriate.

## **Conclusion**

Studio West will monitor and evaluate its practices and assess the impact of other school policies upon Equal Opportunities. In light of those evaluations the school will seek to further improve its practices to meet the above objectives.