the cupola

Stoney Middleton Visitor Centre

Equity and Diversity Policy

Our organisations is committed to achieving equality and diversity throughout the organisation. This will apply equally to our visitors and to our workforce, eliminating discrimination.

Our aim is for our facilities to be open, welcoming and accessible to all sections of society irrespective of disability, gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, belief, culture, nationality, age, sexual orientation or any other minority group.

Our workforce will be selected without discrimination ensuring fairness and inclusion wherever possible, they will feel respected and able to give their best and in turn will provide our goods, services and facilities upholding and delivering the organisations policies, therefore providing the best possible experience to all our visitors

The policy's purpose is to:

- ✓ Provide for all our visitors equally, ensuring all groups can access and enjoy our facilities

- ✓ provide equality, fairness and respect for all in our employment, whether temporary, part-time or full-time

- ✓ not unlawfully discriminate and respect the Equality Act 2010 in respecting the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation

- ✓ oppose and avoid all forms of discrimination. This includes in pay and benefits, terms and conditions of employment, dealing with grievances and discipline, dismissal, redundancy, leave for parents, requests for flexible working, and selection for employment, promotion, training or other developmental opportunities

The organisation commits to:

- ✓ encourage equality and diversity in the workplace as they are good practice and make business sense

- ✓ create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued

This commitment includes training managers and all other employees about their rights and responsibilities under the equality policy. Responsibilities include staff conducting themselves to help the organisation provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination. All staff should understand they, as well as their employer, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, customers, suppliers and the public

- ✓ take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, customers, suppliers, visitors, the public and any others in the course of the organisation's work activities

Such acts will be dealt with as misconduct under the organisation's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures, and any appropriate action will be taken. Particularly serious complaints could amount to gross misconduct and lead to dismissal without notice. Further, sexual harassment may amount to both an employment rights matter and a criminal matter, such as in sexual assault allegations. In addition, harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 – which is not limited to circumstances where harassment relates to a protected characteristic – is a criminal offence

- ✓ make opportunities for training, development and progress available to all staff, who will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential, so their talents and resources can be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation

- ✓ decisions concerning staff being based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act)

- ✓ review employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also update them and the policy to take account of changes in the law

- ✓ monitor the make-up of the workforce regarding information such as age, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and disability in encouraging equality and diversity, and in meeting the aims and commitments set out in the equality policy

Monitoring will also include assessing how the equality policy are working in practice, reviewing them annually, and considering and taking action to address any issues

The equality policy is fully supported by management

Colin and David Hall