



## Equal Opportunities Policy

### SCOPE & PURPOSE

This policy applies to all members of St John's Church staff and volunteers. It provides information concerning equal opportunities and to provide guidelines for staff and volunteers on good practice.

### CONTEXT

St John's Church recognises the value of equal opportunities and seeks, wherever possible, to follow the guidelines drawn up by the relevant statutory body.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female,  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

### DEFINITIONS

Discrimination = any unlawful discrimination

Although there may be circumstances justifying different treatment, which are not unlawful (for example to comply with a genuine occupational requirement for a position), St John's Church will not tolerate unlawful discrimination and/or harassment on the grounds of an individual's sex, race, marital status, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age, religious belief, union membership, Union activities, or employment status. Any reference to discrimination in this policy includes all such possible grounds.

### POLICY

In relation to matters of religion and belief, St John's Church reserves the right to appoint staff who are loyal to the Christian ethos of St John's Church in order to preserve its distinctiveness in accordance with the Employment Equality Regulations 2003.

St John's Church is a Christian organisation which seeks to operate in and for the name of Christ and those who work in St John's Church must be in sympathy with the orthodox Christian beliefs as set out in the doctrine of the Church of England and their promotion. For some posts within St John's Church, more than a loyalty to the Christian ethos of St John's Church is required and these posts are recognised as having Genuine Occupational Requirements.

St John's Church recognises that the UK has a rich diversity of cultures from around the world and seeks to bring Christian witness equally to all cultures. Accordingly, St John's Church is committed to equal opportunity, and it is its policy to treat job applicants,





employees and suppliers in the same way, subject to requiring employees to adhere to St John's Church's mission statement and staff and volunteer code of conduct.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. St John's Church is an equal opportunity employer. Equal opportunity is about ensuring good employment practices and efficient use of St John's Church's most valuable resources, its employees. Every Trustee and employee has personal responsibility for implementing the policy. Any instance of doubt about the application of this policy, or other questions, should be directed to the Chair of the Trustees.
2. This policy applies to the advertisement of jobs, recruitment and selection, training, conditions of work, pay and to every other aspect of employment – paid and voluntary. (Staff involved in recruitment should request training if they have any doubt about the application of this policy.)
3. Staff and volunteers may use the grievance procedure to complain about discriminatory conduct. If the matter relates to unlawful harassment then the grievance may be raised directly with the Chair of Trustees. St John's Church is concerned to ensure that staff feel able to raise such grievances and no individual will be penalised for raising such a grievance unless it is untrue and made in bad faith.
4. The policy also applies equally to the treatment of visitors, clients or suppliers. Any concern related to the unequal treatment of visitors, clients or suppliers should be directed to the relevant staff member or ministry leader.

## DISCIPLINE

Any employee who unlawfully harasses any other employee in the course of their employment will be subject to St John's Church's disciplinary procedure. In serious cases, such behaviour will be deemed to constitute gross misconduct and, as such, will result in summary dismissal in the absence of mitigating circumstances.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

This equal opportunities statement and equal opportunities policy reflect both the mission and purpose of St John's Church and the spirit and intentions of legislation which outlaws discrimination.

1. St John's Church will not unlawfully discriminate or subject any individual (job applicant or staff member) to less favourable treatment.
2. St John's Church aims to ensure that people with disabilities are given equal opportunity to enter employment. In so doing, it will fully consider making





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reasonable adjustments to working practices, equipment and premises to ensure that a disabled person is not put at a substantial disadvantage due to their disability. In addition, when staff members become disabled in the course of their employment, every effort will be made through reasonable adjustment, retraining or redeployment to enable them to remain in the employment of St John's Church.

3. After taking into account any Genuine Occupational Requirement, entry into employment and promotion or change of post within St John's Church is determined by personal merit and ability, relevant to the mission and purpose of St John's Church.
4. It is the responsibility of every individual, both staff and volunteer, to eliminate discrimination by ensuring the practical application of the equal opportunities policy and reporting concerns about any possible breach of this policy to an appropriate senior manager.
5. All allegations of discrimination (including harassment) will be treated seriously. Any unlawful discrimination is totally unacceptable to St John's Church and perpetrators will face disciplinary action.

Discussed & Adopted by the PCC on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

Signed on its behalf

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Revd Graham Hunter  
Chair

