



Equality and Diversity Policy

Simon Scotting Tree Consultancy and Training is committed to equality of opportunity and to a culture that respects difference. We are committed to showing fairness for all, with the emphasis on protecting our learners as well as our employees. We recognise the diverse needs of our local and wider community. We believe that equality of access to learning is crucial to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and achieve the best they can. We take into consideration that not everybody's needs or experiences are the same, and that equality does not mean always treating everybody in exactly the same way. We are committed to ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and all have an equal chance to succeed. We are committed to meeting and going beyond our statutory obligations.

The Equality Act 2010 requires us to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across a range of protected characteristics. These include age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race and religion or belief.

Simon Scotting Tree Consultancy and Training will undertake to ensure that all members of staff are fully aware of this policy, and are given appropriate instruction to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, and that they agree to:

- Ensure that all learners receive reliable and impartial advice on the courses available to them.
- Actively support all learners, whatever their needs, to help them achieve their potential.
- Always act in accordance with policies and statements on equality and diversity.
- Look out for and challenge any discriminatory behaviour.
- Create a safe environment for all learners, free from harassment and discrimination
- Deal with incidents and complaints seriously and with respect.
- Report any incidents or concerns relating to equality and diversity issues immediately to the Equality and Diversity Officer. The Equality and Diversity Officer will undertake to ensure that:
 - Equality and Diversity information is included in all learner inductions, and to ensure that learners understand what this means to them, in terms of fairness.
 - Ensure learners know how they can contact the E&D officer if they need to without fear of jeopardising their learning.
 - All learners receive information containing information about E&D in a user friendly format.
 - The E&D officer will ensure that special care is taken for learners with reading difficulties, or for whom English is not their first language, to check that they do understand their rights, and our commitment to them.
- Positive relationships and respect for human rights are promoted throughout
- Learners are aware of who to contact about bullying or any discriminatory behaviour



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- Learners are aware of how to report incidents or make complaints
- Learners can use different methods for recording learning and for assessment purposes
- Learning materials are free from bias
- Instructors and assessors are able to explain how and why they differentiate their methods of teaching and assessment
- Appropriate methods of assessment are available for learners with learning difficulties/disabilities or for whom English is a second language.

Appointed Equality and Diversity officer: - Simon Scotting.

References are drawn The Equality Act 2010 which is designed to tackle disadvantage and discrimination. Also Section 75 and Schedule 9 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which came into force on the 1 January 2000.