

Policy statement

Appris is committed to being an equal opportunities organisation and embraces diversity in its true sense in relation to all groups and individuals that it deals with examples below:

1. **Employees, directors, subcontractors and job applicants**
2. **Learners and delegates**
3. **Customers representatives**
4. **Employees from the network of professional bodies with whom we work**
5. **And other people with whom we deal**

This policy is not contractual, but aims to set out the way in which Appris aims to manage equality and diversity and to ensure that the people that it deals with are treated fairly, equitably, with respect and dignity.

Our policy also is designed to ensure that those listed above are offered the same opportunities regardless of their **race, religion or belief, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment stages, marital status, disability, pregnancy or maternity** which are laid out in the law as protected characteristics. Appris also believe that true equality and diversity runs much deeper than this and would also aim to ensure that opportunities are offered regardless of any other characteristic unrelated to the performance of the job/task required. We seek to ensure that no one suffers as a result of discrimination.

We recognise that an effective policy will help all those listed above to develop to their full potential, which is clearly in the best interests of those involved with Appris as a business. We aim to ensure that we not only observe the relevant legislation, but also do whatever is necessary to provide genuine equality, diversity and opportunity.

We expect all those listed above to be treated and to treat others with respect. Our aim is to provide a working and learning environment free from harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form, which may affect the dignity of the individual.

We further recognise the benefits of employing and engaging with individuals/learners from a range of backgrounds as this creates a workforce /learning environment where creativity and valuing difference in others thrives. We value the wealth of experience within the community in which we operate and aspire to have a workforce that reflects this.

We actively promote British Values within the Training Centre to our learners/delegates, which are:

Democracy

- Your opinion counts

Individual liberty

- Freedom of speech

The rule of law

- No one is above the law
- Laws protect everyone
- Innocent until proved guilty

Respect and tolerance

- All backgrounds and cultures
- All ages
- All genders and sexualities
- All religions and beliefs

The legal framework

All employees and those that we deal with as listed above are expected to abide by the requirements of:

- The Equality Act 2010
- any Codes of Practice issued by the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Disability Rights Commission.

Definition of discrimination is : **treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.**

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Discrimination may be direct, indirect, associative or perceptive and can take different forms, for example:

- **Direct discrimination** - treating any individual less favourably than others on grounds of his/her age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (protected characteristics). Expecting a person, solely on the grounds stated above, to comply with requirements that are different to the requirements for others, for any reason whatsoever.
- **Indirect discrimination** - imposing requirements that are in effect more onerous than they are on others. For example this would include applying a condition (which is not warranted by the requirements of the position), which, makes it more difficult for members of a particular group to comply than others not of that group.
- **Associative Discrimination** - treating someone less favorably due to their association with an individual who has a protected characteristic.
- **Perceptive discrimination** - discriminating against someone on the assumption that they have a protected characteristic.
- **Victimisation** – subjecting an individual to a detriment because they have done or believed to have done a protected act.
- **Harassment** – subjecting an individual to unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic or not.
- **Third party harassment** – when an individual is subjected to harassment by a third-party individual example someone outside of the organization i.e. customer, supplier etc.
- Any other act or omission of an act, which has the effect of disadvantaging one person against another, purely on the above grounds.

On all occasions, where those in control of employees, learners, delegates etc. are required to make judgments between them, for example disciplinary matters, selection for training, promotion, pay increases, awards, assignment outcomes etc. it is essential that the outcomes are judged solely on the merit, experience, skills and temperament and are made objectively and that the protected characteristics which are detailed above are not taken into consideration.

Responsibility for this policy

The overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of this policy rests with the Managing Director, however Managers have a crucial role to play in promoting and monitoring equality of opportunity and diversity in their own areas of responsibility and ensuring that their staff are promoting equality, diversity and British Values within the realms of their role.

All staff, irrespective of their job or seniority, will be given guidance and instruction, through our induction and other training, as to their responsibility and role in promoting equality and diversity. It is important that all staff do not tolerate discriminatory behaviour in all aspects of their role. Disciplinary action, including dismissal, may be taken against any employee and apprentice learners found guilty of unfair discrimination or harassment.

How we promote Equality and Diversity

At the start of all training sessions we should remind all learners and delegates about our Training Charter which clearly lays out what is the expected behaviour within our classrooms. Tutors and Advisors should challenge any behaviour that contradicts the requirements of the training charter and should also behave themselves in line with the training charter.

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If they are faced with a situation that they are having difficulty dealing with then they should report this to a member of the Management Team immediately for guidance and support – they should not just accept the discriminatory behaviour and ignore it.

The British Values are clearly promoted throughout the Training Centre and learners and delegates are reminded of these on a regular basis.

Recruitment and selection of Appris Staff

We aim, through written instruction, appropriate training and supervision, to ensure that all staff that are responsible for recruitment and selection are familiar with this policy and apply it in conjunction with our Recruitment policy.

Selection will be conducted on an objective basis and will focus only on the applicants' suitability for the job and their ability to fulfil the job requirements. Our interest is in the skills, abilities, qualifications, aptitude and the potential of individuals to do their jobs. Questions asked of candidates will relate to information that will help assess their ability to do the job. Job Descriptions and person specifications will be reviewed to ensure that criteria are not applied which are discriminatory, either directly or indirectly, and that they do not impose any condition or requirement, which cannot be justified by the demands of the post.

Training and development

Appris recognises that equal opportunity responsibilities do not end at selection, and is committed to ensure that, wherever possible, all staff receives the widest possible range of development opportunities for advancement.

All employees will be encouraged to discuss their career prospects and training needs with their manager. The provision of training will be reviewed to ensure that provisions are made where necessary to enable part-time workers, or those returning to work following a break to benefit from training. No age limits apply for entry to training or development schemes, which are open to all employees.

Terms and conditions of employment

We will ensure that all of our policies including compensation, benefits and any other relevant issues associated with Terms and Conditions of Employment, are formulated and applied without regard to **race, religion or belief, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, disability or Gender reassignment or any other characteristic** unrelated to the performance of the job. These will be reviewed regularly to ensure there is no discrimination.

Grievances, disputes and disciplinary procedure

Staff who believe they have been discriminated against, and have not been able to resolve this informally with the individual or their Manager are advised to use our internal Grievance Procedure. An employee who brings a complaint of discrimination must not be less favourably treated. Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated, and any individual employee who feels that he/she has been subjected to harassment or bullying should use our Bullying and Harassment Procedure.

Positive action

We also recognise that passive policies will not reverse the discrimination experienced by many groups of people. To this end, if certain groups are under-represented within our business we will actively seek to encourage applications from those groups. Any measures taken to encourage applications should not in any way be construed as positive discrimination.

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Equality & Diversity Policy

Communication of this policy

Employees will be made aware of this policy and a copy of the policy will be given to all employees , learners and delegates on joining us. In addition, staff will be reminded of the policy through such means as advertisements, job descriptions, training charter, course handbooks and application forms etc.

Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually through Quality Management review processes.

Policies and procedures

Our policies and procedures will be reviewed regularly to improve, amend or adapt current practices to promote equality of opportunity within our business.

Queries or concerns

Any queries regarding the application of this policy should be raised initially with the Managing Director.

Other related Policies:

Safeguarding Policy
Bullying & Harassment Policy

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