

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

## Purpose

The aim of this policy is to outline how Babington will meet internal and external requirements and standards, including the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and related Public Sector Equality Duty, and ensure the organisation meets its commitments to creating an inclusive, safe and respectful learning environment for all.

Babington commits to have due regard to the three aims of the general equality duty:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Babington believes that education is fundamental to equality of opportunity and a powerful influence on access to and advancement in employment. We will take an active approach to identifying and removing barriers to entry and progression across all provisions.

Babington aims to provide an environment that values individuals equally; where all are able to learn and work free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds including the protected characteristics.

Babington aims to ensure an environment which is inclusive and where differences are celebrated. We aim to empower our learners and stakeholders to embrace diversity, challenge discrimination and to foster good relationships between all members of our diverse community. We recognise the differing experiences of all stakeholders and aim to seek and understand feedback to aid us in meeting this commitment.

Babington will comply with requirements set by governing bodies, including the Government, Ofsted, SDS and other regulatory and funding bodies. We commit to reviewing our policies and procedures in line with external updates and guidance.

Babington is committed to embedding our company values throughout everything we do. All colleagues receive EDI training as part of their induction and ongoing training to ensure they are fully updated on any changes to the policy and on best practice. Our commitment to meeting all learner and stakeholder needs, ensuring fair and equal access, fostering good relations and celebrating diversity is driven through our company Purpose, Mission and Values.

Purpose statement: Developing Better Futures

Vision: To be globally recognised as a valued and trusted partner, unlocking potential through a bold passion for learning.

Mission Statement:

- We will be relentless in pursuing a consistent personal customer experience with a passion to make it effortless for you.
- We have great people, doing great things to achieve great results.
- Our curiosity and agility drive us to be brave and different.
- We bring imagination and expertise to regulatory environments where things are always changing.
- We constantly challenge ourselves to think differently about learning for the shared benefits of our customers, our people and our stakeholders.
- Together we will be courageous to build a legacy and better future for everyone.

## Our Values:

- Curious: we are constantly curious, actively finding out how things work and why, exploring how we may do things differently to succeed
- Brave: we are brave and challenge the status quo, embracing difference & change
- Determined: we are driven to ensure we achieve and take accountability for our results
- Passionate: we are passionate about delivering the highest quality to build a legacy of excellence
- Caring: we do the right thing and are committed to working together collaboratively
- Trusted: we build effective relationships based upon trust by consistently doing what we commit to

## Safe and Sound

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy sits within the Safe and Sound framework which has been developed to bring together the key principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Prevent. Low level concerns are reported to record any potential risk of discrimination, harassment or victimisation, for instance, in line with the Equality Act, Keeping Children Safe in Education and our Employee Code of Conduct.

Through developing practice, collaboration, research and dissemination, the Safe and Sound Team seeks to ensure that everyone in our care receives support which meets their individual needs.

## Scope

The policy applies to all Babington employees, learners, subcontractors and other stakeholders. We will work to ensure that all of our learners, employees, contractors, subcontractors and visitors, as well as those who seek to apply to work or study with us or *who* have previously worked or studied with us, are treated fairly and are not subjected to unlawful discrimination.

## Definitions

**Equality** – “recognising the right of all individuals and groups to be treated equally (which does not necessarily mean *the same*), especially in status, rights or opportunities.”

**Diversity** – “understanding that each individual is unique and recognising and valuing our individual differences.”

**Inclusion** – “ensuring everyone feels welcomed, valued and respected for who they are as an individual or group, clear that they are essential to the success of the organisation.”

**Discrimination** – “the unjust or prejudicial treatment of a person or group on the basis of factors such as gender, disability, race, age, sexual orientation or religion or belief.”

**Equality and Diversity Impact Measures (EDIMs)** - “monitoring staff and learner profile with a set of targets (usually quantified) aimed to address identified variation between different groups.” EDIMS ensure all learners have equal opportunity to access our services, achieve success and opportunities for progression.

**Prevent Duty** - is about making sure everyone is kept safe and within the law. It is not about preventing learners from having political and religious views and *concerns* but about supporting them to use those concerns or act on them in non-extremist ways.

## Our Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Babington is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and has built our policy around the requirements of the Prevent Duty and the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act provides protection from bullying, harassment or discrimination of individuals and groups with the following protected characteristics:

- *Age*
- *Disability*
- *Gender reassignment*
- *Marriage or civil partnership*
- *Pregnancy and maternity*
- *Race (including colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origins)*
- *Religion or belief*
- *Sex*
- *Sexual orientation*

This policy recognises and sets a framework for discrimination against these protected characteristics to be acted upon.

As per the Department of Education published guidance, we promote the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The Rule of law
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith
- Individual liberty

These values underpin the work that we do and are promoted through our practices, procedures, systems and all aspects of the learner journey.

### Policy Implementation, Communication and Impact:

Equal and fair access to high quality learning as well as the promotion of fundamental British values will be embedded in appropriate teaching, learning and assessment activity into the curriculum. We will actively promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion throughout the working partnership with all stakeholders, including agreeing a mutually supportive plan for working throughout the learner journey.

Babington will monitor the impact of this policy through 'learner voice' activity, such as surveys and feedback, regular monitoring of EDIMS, including participation rates and reviewing organisational activity in line with changes to legislation and guidance from regulatory bodies.

### Aims and Objectives

Babington aims to create equality of opportunity for all and a culture of diversity and inclusion within our community, providing a dynamic working and learning environment, where all members are valued for their contribution and individuality, through the following objectives:

- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion through internal and external communications
- Complying with our legal obligations
- Monitoring the success of different learner and employee groups and responding to any areas for improvement
- Conducting an annual audit and analysis of our performance in respect of Equality and Diversity Impact Measures (EDIMs)
- Ensuring any imbalance or evident variation in learner, employee or other stakeholder group participation or performance is not as a result of unfair or unequal access, treatment or opportunity
- Ensuring that all employees undergo appropriate equality, diversity and inclusion training appropriate to their role
- Ensuring that wherever practicable we adapt our services to meet the individual needs of employees and learners in respect of their protected characteristics
- Ensuring support services are fully accessible to all employees and learners and are fully accessible to disabled people
- Treating all potential and existing employees and learners fairly and judged solely on merit

- Ensuring that all contractors and service providers operating on behalf of Babington are aware of and understand this policy and adhere to it
- Ensuring that development of understanding of equality, diversity, inclusion and fundamental British values are an integral part of all learning provision
- Ensuring that teaching resources and promotional materials represent our stakeholder group and are accessible to all

## Roles and Responsibilities

Babington shares responsibility for the successful application of this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually and in addition when there are changes to regulatory requirements. The Director of Quality and Service Standards will undertake such reviews, with support from the People and Talent manager, the Safe and Sound manager and senior managers. The policy and its updates will be available on Babington Website and internal share point site. They will be communicated to all stakeholders through our internal communication channels, such as all colleague emails, team meetings, Safe and Sound Yammer page, Safe and Sound newsletter and. Additional training will be delivered where major changes or amends to the policy occur.

The Executive Team is responsible for:

- Leading and promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion and celebrating diversity across all aspects of the organisation
- Meeting our legal obligations under this policy and overall responsibility for its implementation
- Considering all existing and emerging equality legislation with a view to identifying relevant issues, which are then translated into key Babington policies
- Ensuring organisational objectives and performance measures are reviewed annually, in line with this policy
- Ensuring arrangements for learners, employees and stakeholders are inclusive and ensure fair access for all

Managers are responsible for:

- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and fundamental British values
- Challenging and responding to unacceptable behaviour
- Ensuring employees and learners know how to report discrimination, bullying, harassment and other behaviour that goes against fundamental British Values
- Dealing with complaints fairly, professionally, promptly and confidentially where appropriate
- Investigating reported incidents and ensuring appropriate action is taken where discrimination or prohibited behaviour takes place
- Ensuring reported incidents do not result in victimisation

Employees are responsible for:

- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and fundamental British values
- Familiarising themselves with this policy and referring to their line manager if they have any questions
- Challenging and responding to inappropriate behaviour
- Reporting unacceptable behaviour
- Reporting and contributing to the resolution of complaints professionally, promptly and confidentially where appropriate

Partners Management are responsible for:

- Ensuring Partners promote equality, diversity and inclusion and fundamental British values
- Reviewing and recording quarterly how partners are promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and fundamental British values
- Quality checking policies during onboarding and annual due diligence refresh

Learners are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with this policy and their employer’s policy (if appropriate) referring to their line manager or a member of the Babington team if they have any questions
- Reporting unacceptable behaviour

### Reporting and Complaints

Employees, learners or other parties who make a complaint of discrimination have the right to do so without fear of victimisation and Babington will make every effort to ensure victimisation does not occur and that any complaints are dealt with promptly and fairly.

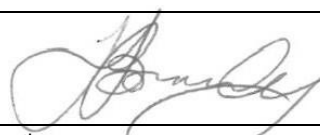
Further information about how to make a complaint can be found in our Complaints policy. For employees, also refer to the whistleblowing policy and/or grievance policy. Any cases of harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation will be taken very seriously.

Any employee or learners found guilty of unlawful discrimination or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including where appropriate, dismissal for gross misconduct. Appropriate action will be taken against any member of the public, visitor or service provider involved in discrimination or harassment.

### Further Information

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Employee Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding and Prevent Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use of ICT policy
- Teaching, learning and assessment strategy
- Learner involvement strategy
- Employer engagement strategy
- Complaints policy
- Grievance policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Recruitment and selection policy
- Fair access to assessment policy
- EDI Implementation Plan

COO Name:	Jennifer Bramley
COO Signature:	
Date:	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

The Director of Quality & Service Standards is the owner of this document and has approved its publication. The document owner is responsible for ensuring that this policy is reviewed annually.

This document is issued on a version-controlled basis and is available to all colleagues on the corporate intranet.

**Document Management:**

Owner: The Director of Quality & Service Standards  
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**Change History Record**

Version control	Substantive change narrative	Author of substantive change	Date of substantive change
V9	Existing policy formatted and version controlled	Information Security Team	17/05/2019
1.0	Version control added in line with ISO27001 and policy addendum added	Information Security Team	28/05/2019
2.0	Updated to reflect the new vision, mission and values of Babington.	Barbara Van Der Eecken	20/02/2020
3.0	Updated version to include the “inclusion” side of the policy in all its aspects	Barbara Van Der Eecken	19/02/2021
4.0	Policy reviewed and minor updates made	Barbara Van Der Eecken	19/05/2021
5.0	Policy reviewed and minor updates made	Barbara Van Der Eecken	25/04/2022
5.1	Reviewed to include subcontractors more explicitly	Barbara Van Der Eecken	24/05/2022
5.2	Reviewed policy as part of annual update – No significant changes made.	Phil Lythgoe	25/05/2023
5.3	Annual review completed removed external website link to Sub-contractors.	Phil Lythgoe	11/10/2024