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## DIVERSITY & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL POLICY

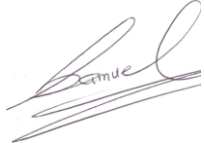
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(Governing Board)**

**Date for Review:**            **08 January 2026**

### Record of Policy Review:

Date Policy was Issued	Date of Next Review	Reason for Review
09 January 2024	08 January 2026 or as the need arise.	to ensure that the policy document remains up to date
Signature		

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain EDUQUEST COLLEGE commitment to making sure every member of our school community, regardless of their background or personal attributes, is treated with respect and dignity.

## Policy

### Definitions

Personal attribute: These are the attitudes, character traits and physical characteristics of an individual or a personal characteristic. These include: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious belief or activity, political belief or activity, age, intersex status, physical features, pregnancy, guardian and parental status, breastfeeding, marital or relationship status, lawful sexual activity, employment activity, industrial activity, expunged homosexual conviction or personal association with anyone who is identified with reference to any protected attribute.

Direct discrimination: unfavourable treatment because of a person's protected attribute.

Indirect discrimination: imposing an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that disadvantages a person or group of people with a protected attribute.

Sexual harassment: unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature towards another person which could reasonably be expected to make that other person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated. It may be physical, verbal, visual or written.

Disability harassment: an action taken in relation to the person's disability that is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to humiliate, offend, intimidate or distress the person.

Vilification: conduct that incites hatred towards or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people on the basis of their race or religion.

Victimisation: subjecting a person or threatening to subject them to detrimental treatment because they (or their associate) have made an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of a protected attribute (or asserted their rights under relevant policies or law).

## **Inclusion and Diversity**

EDUQUEST COLLEGE strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

EDUQUEST COLLEGE is a school which values the whole person and aims to provide a welcoming environment to all, acknowledging individual strengths and talents.

EDUQUEST COLLEGE is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school. EDUQUEST COLLEGE acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

At EDUQUEST COLLEGE we value the human rights of every student and we take our obligations under anti-discrimination laws and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities seriously.

### **EDUQUEST COLLEGE will:**

- actively nurture and promote a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity
- ensure that students are not discriminated against (directly or indirectly) and where necessary, are reasonably accommodated to participate in their education and school activities (e.g. schools sports, camps, excursions and performances) on the same basis as their peers
- acknowledge and respond to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students
- encourage empathy and fairness towards others
- challenge stereotypes that promote prejudicial and biased behaviours and practices
- contribute to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students
- respond to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised.

We value the voice of all of our students and promote the sharing of student concerns and awareness of human rights through our student leadership representation from all year levels, and through participation in our Connect Love World Programme.

Bullying, unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals or groups because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated at EDUQUEST COLLEGE. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies to respond to students who demonstrate these behaviours at our school.

Students who may have experienced or witnessed this type of behaviour are encouraged to speak up and to let their teachers, parents or guardians know about those behaviours to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.

### **Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities**

EDUQUEST COLLEGE also understands that it has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist students with disabilities to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities in consultation with the student, their parents or guardians, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. Our school may consult through Student Support Group processes and in other less formal ways.

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website [www.eduquestcollege.co.za](http://www.eduquestcollege.co.za)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request