



Equal Opportunities Policy

1. Purpose

Barton Bendish Village Hall is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone. This policy defines how Barton Bendish Village operates to provide equality and fairness to all hirers, volunteers, and staff, and to prevent less favourable treatment based on protected characteristics.

This policy applies to all trustees, volunteers, staff, contractors, and users of the hall, supporting their work and activities. We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises, ensuring an environment is free from discrimination, harassment, and victimisation. We also have a duty to support our trustees, volunteers, and staff in promoting equality and diversity.

2. Definitions

Protected Characteristics: Under the Equality Act 2010 It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of the following protected characteristic:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Discrimination: directly or indirectly treating someone less favourably because of a protected characteristic.

Harassment: unwanted conduct related to a protected characteristic that violates someone's dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment.

Bullying: offensive, intimidating, malicious, or insulting behaviour that involves an abuse or misuse of power intended to undermine, humiliate, or injure the recipient.

Victimisation: treating someone badly because they have made or supported a complaint about discrimination or harassment.

Persons affected

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the village hall charity property.
- All visitors and contractors.

3. Policy principles

Barton Bendish Village Hall is committed to:

- Equality and fairness: providing equal opportunities and fairness to all hirers, volunteers, and staff, and ensuring representation from all sections of society.
- Dignity and respect: creating an environment that promotes dignity and respect for everyone.
- Zero tolerance: not tolerating any form of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimisation.
- Inclusive culture: promoting an inclusive culture for all our community, in which individual differences and the contributions of everyone are recognised and valued.
- Training and awareness: making training available to all volunteers and staff where appropriate.
- Reporting and action: encouraging individuals to raise concerns about discrimination and applying corrective measures promptly.
- Continuous improvement: regularly reviewing practices and procedures to maintain fairness and compliance with current legislation.

4. Procedures

- A. All Trustees will familiarise themselves with their equality and diversity responsibilities, undertake and keep up-to-date appropriate training and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy.
- B. All Trustees will work together to promote a culture that promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion, and that enables any related issues to be addressed.
- C. When candidates for the Barton Bendish Village Hall Trust or other volunteer positions are selected, it will be on the basis of their aptitude and ability only.

- D. Barton Bendish Village Hall welcomes bookings from all sectors of our community and will provide equal opportunities to all hirers. However, bookings which may be detrimental to our hall, its values and that of our wider community (including, but not restricted to, groups who promote homophobia, religious intolerance, or any kind of prejudicial groups), will not be accepted.
- E. All hirers, volunteers and Trustees must be treated fairly and with respect.
- F. The Barton Bendish Village Hall Management Committee will require all hirers of the hall to have read and agreed to the Terms & Conditions of Booking. This requires all hirers to assist us in meeting our commitments to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion, and to avoid discrimination, to treat other hirers and volunteers fairly and with respect, and to confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures in respect of equal opportunities.
- G. Barton Bendish Village Hall will consider all acts of discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation as unacceptable behaviour. Hirers supporting such behaviour will be prohibited from future use of the hall.
- H. Any individual who believes they have been subject to discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimisation should report the incident to the Barton Bendish Village Hall Trustees. Complaints must be taken seriously and managed promptly and confidentially.
- I. The Barton Bendish Village Hall Trustees will conduct an annual review of this policy to ensure it remains relevant and effective. Updates may be made as necessary during interim periods.
- J. This policy is publicly available on www.bartonbendishvillagehall.com

Date policy adopted.....18 October 2025.....

Signed..........

Next Policy Review date.....18 October 2026.....

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Figure 1

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