

Policy name: Access and Participation Statement for Higher Education

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Barnet and Southgate College - Access and Participation Statement for Higher Education

Barnet and Southgate College is dedicated to providing an outstanding quality service and to widening access to meet the needs of local and regional employers and those of our local community. The College's Higher Education provision is committed to equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination. Barriers to higher-level learning are minimised, and the diversity of our student body is celebrated.

Our Core Principles

- **United** - We work as one team; we actively build positive relationships, and we appreciate and benefit from diverse thinking and diverse perspectives
- **Innovative** - We encourage and invite new ideas; we welcome professional challenge, and we see setbacks as an opportunity to learn
- **Curious** - We question, we listen to understand, we are eager to learn
- **Inclusive** - Everyone is welcome, we appreciate everyone, and we challenge discrimination
- **Transparent** - We share thoughts and ideas honestly and respectfully without fear of negative repercussions. We speak up when we see things that could be better
- **Positive** - We assume positive intent and seek to solve problems and challenges, not to contribute to them
- **Responsible** - We take responsibility for the impact of our actions and never pass the blame
- **Measured** - We demonstrate positive behaviours even under pressure
- **Proud** - We recognise and openly celebrate the great things that happen there

Our Six Strategic Pillars are:

1. A Relevant, Responsive, Agile Curriculum
2. Innovative and Impactful Teaching, Learning, and Assessment
3. Exceptional Staff Experience, Engagement and Satisfaction
4. Financial Resilience
5. Reputation for Excellence
6. Purposeful Partnerships

The College has, strategically, taken an inclusive approach to the work of engaging with individuals with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010), delivering programmes, with a planned differentiated approach, from pre-entry through to Degree level, to fully support the needs of our further education and higher education students.

Supporting progression at all levels is a key aspect of Barnet and Southgate College's commitment to widening access and participation. Courses are offered in the community, which lead onto mainstream courses at the college and are part of the college's outreach work. A bridging programme, 'Back on Track', provides young people with the opportunity to access a programme which provides support at lower levels before transitioning to higher-level courses and the Schools Liaison team.

The College actively promotes all college programmes, including degrees, at the regular local School events. The College Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy are part of the strategic and operational commitment to widening access and participation.

Barnet and Southgate College's Higher Education Delivery Plan is focused on the delivery of high-quality learning with the key aim of supporting Higher Education students to gain sustainable employment through widening participation and providing access to higher-level learning.

The strategy includes the aims which underpin the College values:

- Widen participation and aid social mobility for all students and provide access for those in work from a range of different backgrounds, including international HE students.
- Plan high-quality, flexible, innovative and accessible HE provision to support fair access that provides choice for our students, enabling progression opportunities to employment and promoted positions throughout their lives.
- Support the mental health and well-being of our students.
- Develop the knowledge and skills of our higher education students.
- Provide clear information to HE applicants on opportunities, choice and progression, including through to Degree Apprenticeships.

Recruitment and Support for Students

The College is committed to providing impartial advice, guidance and support to ensure applicants enrol onto an appropriate course with additional learning support put in place, where required, to enable successful outcomes and progression to further study or employment. Students can access a confidential counselling, wellbeing and careers guidance service through the Learner Services teams at each main campus. Full details are outlined in the College Admissions Service Policy and Fitness to Study Process. The College ensures access and participation in HE programmes by:

- Planning HE programmes with flexible delivery, including part-time day and evening courses.
- Offering a range of Access to Higher Education programmes to support adults with knowledge and skills development leading to progression onto degree programmes.
- Progression routes are mapped across curriculum areas up to and including higher education.
- HE programmes have an entry criterion which encourages students from a 'non-traditional' background to apply, with previous workplace experience being the alternative entry criteria rather than UCAS points or academic qualifications.