**ROCHDALE AFC**

**EQUALITY STATEMENT**

Rochdale AFC works across the borough of Rochdale to be inclusive and anti-discriminatory and works closely with the EFL, The FA and Kick it Out.

Football Clubs should be accessible to everyone and so it is important that the right culture is promoted. Rochdale AFC want to ensure that the Club is a place that is child and family friendly, free from discrimination and unfair behaviour and will do everything they can in-order to achieve these objectives.

Rochdale AFC is currently looking to achieve the required standard for the ELF's Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Code of Practice and undergoing a complete review of all areas of its business.

Rochdale AFC is committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect; by recognising inequalities exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community. It is about changing the culture and structure of our Football Club to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

Rochdale AFC's commitment is to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, race (ethnic or national origin) pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, disability or age (the protected characteristics). We will ensure that we treat people fairly and with respect and that we will provide access and opportunities for all members of the community to take part in, and enjoy our activities.

Rochdale AFC will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of any individual, which for the purposes of this statement and the actions and sanctions applicable is regarded as discrimination, whether physical or verbal. This includes any form of 'Hate Crime' which is a crime targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity. The Club will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with the appropriate action in whatever context it occurs including inappropriate posts through social media.

Rochdale AFC is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and requires all staff to abide and adhere to the equality legislation, Equality Act 2010, as well as any amendments to this act.

Rochdale AFC commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims, when it is brought to their attention, of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice stop and sanctions imposed as appropriate.

The content of this statement applies equally to the treatment of our staff, customers, supporters, clients and suppliers and is fully supported by the Board of Rochdale AFC.

**If you have a complaint or witness an incident of discrimination, harassment or bullying we would ask you to report it direct to Russ Green, Rochdale AFC CEO & Club Equality Champion and Kick it Out.**



 **Date: June 2018**

