

BENEFITS OF BEING INCLUSIVE

CLUB BENEFITS

Whilst not an easy feat, by becoming an inclusive club you will reap the rewards of the hours of hard work undertaken to get there. The benefits will be realized by students, parents, instructors, the club, the Association and the EKF. By being inclusive it has also been proven that this can have tangible benefits on both physical and mental health which in turn can help relieve the stress on the wider community and public services. There really are no limits to what can be achieved!

Benefit / Advantage	Description
Increased positive environment	By listening, learning and understanding the a more harmonious environment will be created.
More members	Karate should be open to all but unfortunately barriers to access may deter new members from joining and/or staying. With more members not only comes a more positive environment but also increased revenue which can then be put back into the system for the benefit of all members. By understanding the diverse communities we serve this can help with the perceptions of both the club and the art/sport in general thus providing an influx of new members.
Improvement in performance	By attracting members from all walks of life there is automatically more access to a wider talent pool of individuals from which the performance of your club at a local, regional and national level can only improve.
Gathering of new skills	Not only will the new members and volunteers gather new skills but also the coaching staff will have acquired new skills in understanding and implementing inclusive methodologies which in turn can help promote innovation.



Benefit / Advantage	Description
<p>Additional funding opportunities</p>	<p>A proactive approach to inclusion can open up funding opportunities in the form of grants or sponsorship. There is an array of funding opportunities which clubs can submit bids - from a national level to a very local council level too. Commercial partners are increasingly focusing on rewarding those with a demonstrable commitment to community and inclusivity.</p>
<p>Boost of community profile and presence</p>	<p>Be the focal point of your community by being open to all regardless of any of the characteristics listed in the Equality Act. By being the hub of the community with a big profile this in turn can link into any number of the other benefits listed.</p>
<p>Establishment of improved social networks</p>	<p>Equality and diversity afford clubs greater opportunities to engage with a wider network of people, charities and other organisations.</p>
<p>Increase in volunteers</p>	<p>Karate clubs often rely on the goodwill of volunteers to run. By ensuring the right environment this can encourage more volunteers to feel empowered to offer their services and skill sets to assist the club in any activities which are required.</p>

INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

There are numerous benefits for individual karateka that can be realised by being part of a club that is truly inclusive.

These benefits can also extend beyond the reach of those benefits typically associated with the sport e.g. discipline, flexibility, strength

Being part of an inclusive club can broaden the horizons and outlook of members and help to instil in them a passion to fight for the equal rights of all. It can help break down barriers and create new and long-lasting friendship and support networks.

Furthermore, by positively contributing to the creation of an inclusive club, this can boost an individual's sense of purpose and personal reward.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

By having greater connections to the local communities this is mutually beneficial for the community and the club. By improving links with local businesses, schools, community groups and the local authority(ies), joint initiatives, partnerships and projects can be realised.

Inclusive karate clubs also understand the benefits of creating offers to meet the needs of different community groups, e.g. classes at different times of the day, which can result in a wider range of local sporting opportunities.

Finally, sport has been demonstrable in reducing a child's likelihood of being involved in crime and therefore by providing a club which is home to everybody regardless of perceived barriers, this has to be one of the most profound impacts sport can have.

