



SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Reviewed: January 2015
Next review: January 2017

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

..... *Mark Grant Goodey*

Introduction

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN AND Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

Key Objectives

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to offer full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.

Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school's SEN Policy;
- The school recognizes its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):
 - Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
 - Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
 - To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
 - To publish an Accessibility Plan

- In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002);
- The school recognizes and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality;
- The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 Framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum;
 - Setting suitable learning challenges
 - Responding to pupil's diverse learning needs
 - Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Activity

(this section outlines the main objectives which the school undertakes, and is planning to undertake, to achieve the key objective (above).)

a) Education & Related Activities:

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LEA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

b) Physical Environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings

c) Provision of Information

The school will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LEA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Access Plan

The identification and monitoring of actions through which this policy will be maintained is integrated into school strategic and improvement planning. An action plan can be found appended to this policy.

Linked Policies

This policy will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, e.g.

- School Improvement Plan
- SEN Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Single Equality Plan
- Teaching & Learning Policy
- Curriculum Policies