

HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Accessibility Policy

Aims

Highfield Primary School aims to include all pupils, including those with disabilities, in the full life of the school. Our strategies to do this will include:

- Having high expectations of all pupils
- Finding ways in which all pupils can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music and drama
- Planning out-of-school activities, including all school trips and excursions, so that pupils with disabilities can participate
- Setting admissions policy and criteria which do not discriminate against pupils with disabilities or treat them unfairly
- Devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for pupils with disabilities
- Planning the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities
- Raising awareness of disability amongst school staff (teaching and non-teaching) through a programme of training
- Providing information for pupils with disabilities in a form which is user friendly
- Using language which does not offend and making staff and making pupils aware of the importance of appropriate language at all times
- Examining our library and reading books to ensure that there are examples of positive images of disabled people
- Adhering to the school's Race and Equal Opportunities statement that we celebrate the richness and diversity that our pupils represent; and promoting a positive approach to multi-lingual, multi-faith society regardless of race, class, faith, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

The definition of disability is:

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

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight or hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long-term and substantial effect on pupils' everyday lives.

We recognise:

- Our duty under the Disability Discrimination Act ('95) as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2001)
"From September 2002, it will be unlawful for Schools and LEAs to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, education and associated services"*

* Preparation for entry to the school, the curriculum, teaching and learning, classroom organisation, timetabling, grouping of pupils, homework, access to school facilities, activities to supplement the curriculum, school sports, school policies, breaks and lunchtimes, the serving of school meals, interaction with peers, assessment and exam arrangements, school discipline and sanctions, school clubs and activities, school trips, the school arrangements for working with other agencies, preparation of pupils for the next phase of education. In maintained schools the provision of a special piece of equipment or extra assistance will be made through the SEN framework and to a lesser extent through the planning duty which applies to all schools. The distinction between auxiliary aids and services provided through the SEN route and those provided under the planning duty is that the SEN duties relate to the individual, whereas the planning duty relates to the provision of aids or services in terms of the population (and future population) of the school. For example, a pupil with visual impairment might have low vision aids provided through a statement/EHCP of SEN but the school might as a general measure provide blinds and adjustable lighting through the planning duty.

HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Accessibility Policy

- Schools and Local Authorities must:
 - Not treat pupils with disabilities less favourably; and
 - Take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage (the 'reasonable adjustment' duty)
- That Local Education Authority and School governors have the duty to publish Accessibility Strategies and Plans.

Scope of the Plan

This plan covers all three main strands of the planning duty:

Improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which pupils with disabilities are able to take advantage of education and associated services

This strand of the planning duty covers aids to improve the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. The physical environment includes things such as steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces and paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits (including emergency escape routes), internal and external doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lighting, ventilation, lifts, floor coverings, signs and furniture. Aids to physical access include ramps, handrails, lifts, widened doorways, electromagnetic doors, adapted toilets and washing facilities, adjustable lighting, blinds, induction loops and way-finding systems.

Physical aids to access education cover things such as ICT equipment, enlarged computer screens and keyboards, concept key boards, switches, specialist desks and chairs and portable aids for children with motor coordination and poor hand/eye skills, such as extra robust scientific glassware and specialist pens and pencils.

Increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the school's curriculum

This strand of the planning duty will help to improve access to a full, broad and balanced curriculum. It covers a range of elements including ensuring that teaching and learning is accessible through school and classroom organisation and support, especially deployment of staff, timetabling, curriculum options and staff information and training.

Schools will be expected to plan to improve progressively access to the curriculum for all pupils with disabilities although many adjustments to access will be dependent on individual needs and may be provided through the SEN framework. The accessibility strategies and plans will help to ensure that schools are planning and preparing to respond to the particular needs of individual pupils.

Improving the delivery of information to pupils with disabilities

This part of the duty covers planning to make information normally provided by the school in writing to its pupils - such as handouts, timetables, textbooks, information about school events - available to pupils with disabilities. This will include alternative formats such as Braille, audio tape and large print and also the provision of information through lip speaking or sign language, through a recognised symbol system or ICT. This information should also be made available within a reasonable time frame and take account of the pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents/carers' preferred formats.

Other related School policies

Equality for pupils with disabilities is included as an explicit aim in all of the School's policies and is supported by the school's other policies including:

- Teaching and Learning
- Equal Opportunities Policy

HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Accessibility Policy

- Behaviour Policy
- Admissions policy/criteria
- School Improvement Plan
- School Asset Management Plan
- Policy for School trips and excursions
- SEN policy
- Exclusions

Actions to ensure equality for pupils with disabilities

- We shall undertake a disability audit annually using a checklist. Please see Appendix A.
- As a result of the audit, we shall:
 1. Write an action plan which includes targets
 2. Make the policy and targets known to all teaching and ancillary staff, pupils and parents/carers
 3. Monitor the success of the plan
 4. The plan will be reviewed annually by the Premises Committee of the Governing Body.

Monitoring

Highfield Primary School recognises that monitoring is essential to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not being disadvantaged (essentials are in **Bold type**), and that monitoring leads to action planning. We will monitor:

- **Admissions**
- **Attainment**
- **Attendance**
- Punctuality
- Teaching and learning and interventions
- Rewards and sanctions (Time Out)
- **Exclusions**
- Extra-curricular activities
- Homework and homework clubs
- Number of pupils participating in any extra programmes outside the school teaching calendar e.g. summer schools
- **Selection and recruitment of staff**
- **Governing Body representation**
- Parents/carers attending consultation meetings
- Parents/carers' involvement in the life of the school (representation on "Friends of Highfield", attendance at parents/carers' evenings, in the classroom, school productions, sports days, fetes etc)

Governors will monitor how targets have been met in the Annual Audit.

HIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL Accessibility Policy

Publications for Guidance

Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to Schools for disabled pupils	Issued to all Schools in June 2002 (DfES Publications)
Schools' Disability Code of Practice	Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
SEN Code of Practice	DfES
DfES Guidance on Inclusive Schooling	DfES
National Curriculum 2000 Inclusion Statement	DfES
DfEE: Access for disabled people to school buildings (BB91)	The Stationery Office