
OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL

Disability Equality Scheme & Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils



Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils		
Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2024	August 2025	Mrs M Brown Mrs D York

We believe this policy relates to the following legislation:

- **Disability Discrimination Act 1995**
- **SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA)**
- **Children Act 2004**
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Children and Families Act 2014**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015**

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- **Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years. Statutory Guidance for Organisations Who Work With and Support Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (DfE) and (DoH)**
- **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions: Statutory Guidance for Governance Bodies of Maintained Schools and Proprietors of Academies in England (DfE)**
- **The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE)**
- **Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Pupils (2012) (Equality and Human Rights Commission)**
- **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (2014) (DfE)**

We believe that we work hard to ensure that the culture and ethos of this school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treat one another with respect. This school provides pupils with the opportunity to experience understand and value diversity.

In accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) this policy and plan has been devised. It also draws on the guidance set out in “Accessing School: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils” issued by the DFES in July 2002.

We welcome children with disabilities and we value the knowledge and views of parents regarding their child's disability and how it affects their ability to carry normal activities.

We believe disability is:

‘A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This means that in general the person must have an impairment that is either physical or mental; the impairment must have adverse effects

which are substantial; the substantial adverse effects must be long-term; and the long-term substantial adverse effects must be effects on normal day-to-day activities.' (Equality Act 2010)

We have a duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, eliminate disability related harassment, promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage disabled people to participate in school life.

We believe it is our duty to prepare and publish a disability equality scheme that will outline accessibility to the school premises and its facilities, accessibility to the curriculum, accessibility of educational services, provision of training for school personnel and pupils which result in improved outcomes for disabled pupils, parents/carers and school personnel in all aspects of school life.

We are proud of our ethos of support, collaboration and respect for one another. We strive to create a safe caring environment for all our pupils to experience success, happiness and excellence. All school users will benefit from the school's disability equality scheme as it will allow them to take full benefit of the opportunities that this school offers.

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, school personnel, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

In response to the Access Audit undertaken by the local authority we have in place an Accessibility Action Plan designed to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school, to make improvements in the provision of information and to increase access to the curriculum. The plan is as follows:

Development area	Targets	Strategies	Outcome and by when	Goals achieved
Delivery of the curriculum	To offer a wider range of vocational subjects.	To develop work base qualifications and traineeships that can lead to apprenticeship to	To further develop for September 2025.	Achieved
The physical environment of the school	To have a portable ramp.	Suitable ramp in place	By September 2025.	Achieved.
Provision of information in other formats	To produce a different format of the prospectus. Video being prepared.	To take specialist advice.	Advice currently being taken to create a video.	To be achieved.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aim

- To ensure that all school personnel with disabilities are treated fairly in regard to recruitment, performance management, promotion, staff development, teaching environment and access to the school premises.
- To reduce and eliminate barriers to access the curriculum and to have full participation in the school community for pupils, prospective pupils and our adult users with a disability.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Principal

The Principal will:

- work closely with the Equal Opportunities Committee;
- work closely with the coordinator;
- devise a new plan every three years;
- oversee the implementation of the policy, Scheme and Plan;
- annually review and adjust the Accessibility Action Plan;
- organise ongoing awareness raising and training for school personnel in the matter of disability discrimination;
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- report on the procedures in place for school personnel with disabilities;
- inform on the training programme for school personnel;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the:
 - ☐ physical environment of the school
 - ☐ provision of information
 - ☐ delivery of the curriculum by:
 - monitoring learning and teaching through observing lessons
 - monitoring planning and assessment
 - speaking with pupils, school personnel, and parents

- annually report on the success and development of this policy.

Role of the Coordinator

The coordinator will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- liaise with school personnel to discuss what changes are needed to the physical environment of the school, to the provision of information and to the delivery of the curriculum;
- work closely with the Principal
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- undertake risk assessments when required;
- review and monitor;
- annually report on the success and development of this policy

Role of the Equal Opportunities Committee

The Equal Opportunities Committee will fully integrate disabled people into this school by:

- undertaking a needs analysis that will identify what improvements to the school building plus other issues that need to be taken into account;
- identifying what needs to be done to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can fully participate in the curriculum that the school provides;
- identifying what needs to be done to improve the physical environment of the school that will increase the extent to which disabled people can have access to the education and other services that this school offers;
- identifying what needs to be done to improve communicating written information to disabled people;
- helping pupils to recognise, understand and learn how to treat people with disabilities by:
 - ☐ identifying different kinds of disabilities
 - ☐ visualizing what it might feel like to be disabled
 - ☐ supporting and interacting with disabled people
 - ☐ empathising
- ensuring good lines of communication are in place with parents namely:
 - ☐ newsletters
 - ☐ weekly information letters
 - ☐ school website
 - ☐ annual pupil reports
 - ☐ termly parent-teacher consultations

- ☐ curriculum evenings
- ☐ School events

- identifying what needs to be done to improve our programme of extra-curricular activities that will be to the benefit of our disabled pupils;
- identifying what needs to be done to improve our provision of courses for adults and families who have particular needs in the community;
- identifying the training needs of school personnel;
- annually review this policy and the Disability Accessibility Plan

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- liaise with the SENCo to discuss what changes are needed to the physical environment of the school, to the provision of information and to the delivery of the curriculum;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour within and outside school and not to undermine fundamental British values;
- work in partnership parents and carers keeping them up to date with their child's progress and behaviour at school.

Role of Pupils

Pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- be encouraged to work in partnership with the school by making decisions and exercising choice in relation to their educational programme;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys.

Role of the School Council

The School Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
- organise surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- inform the school of their child's disability;
- share their knowledge of their child's disability and how it affects the normal activities of their child;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school

Raising Awareness of this Policy

- School Handbook/Prospectus;
- School website;
- Staff Handbook;
- Meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops;
- School events;
- Meetings with school personnel;
- Written communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters;
- Annual report to parents;
- Headteacher reports to the Governing Body;
- Information displays in the main school entrance;
- Text messages
- Email
- Social media:
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Virtual pin boards
 - School blog

Training

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on induction which specifically covers:
 - ☐ All aspects of this policy
 - ☐ Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils
 - ☐ Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
 - ☐ Disabled Access
 - ☐ Equal opportunities
 - ☐ Inclusion
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Principal:	Mrs M F Brown	Date:	September 2024
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