

WALDRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Accessibility Policy

ADOPTED: July 2017

REVIEWED:

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

Introduction

Duties under Part 5A of the Disability Discrimination Act require the governing body to:

- promote equality of opportunity for disabled people: pupils, staff, parents, carers and other people who use the school or may wish to; and
- prepare and publish a disability equality scheme to show how they will meet these duties.

This scheme and the accompanying action plans set out how the governing body will promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

Duties in Part 4 of the DDA require the governing body to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils in 3 ways:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

This scheme incorporates the school's plans to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

1.0 School Ethos, Vision and Values

Waldringfield School is committed to ensuring equal treatment of all its employees, pupils and any others involved in the school community, with any form of disability. We aim to ensure that disabled people are not treated less favourably in any procedures, practices and service delivery.

This school will not tolerate harassment of disabled people with any form of impairment and will also consider pupils who are carers of disabled parents.

1.1 What do we understand by disability?

“Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities” (DDA 1995 Part 1 para. 1.1.) This definition was amended and broadened in December 2005 under the 2005 Disability Amendment Act and now includes people with long-term medical conditions, such as those with cancer or surviving cancer, HIV and Multiple Sclerosis, from the point of diagnosis. It also includes mental impairments and the need for these to be clinically well recognised has been removed by the Act.

Our school accepts the “social model” of disability which recognises that disability is not caused by the individuals, but by the physical, environmental and attitudinal barriers which exist in the education system and in society as a whole.

Our school therefore uses the social model of disability throughout our work. We understand that the definition of disability under the Act is different from the eligibility criteria for special educational needs provision. This means that disabled pupils may or may not have special educational needs. We also recognise that social, educational and behavioural difficulties are part of this definition where they have a substantial and long-term effect on a child or young person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

1.2 School's Strategic Priorities

Waldringfield strives to be an inclusive school. It values all pupils, parents and staff and their contribution to the school community. Through the School Development Plan and the Disability Equality Scheme, Waldringfield aims to raise attainment for all pupils. The School aims to overcome any barriers to learning that the pupils experience.

Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in the implementation and development of the scheme to ensure that equality of opportunity for all is achieved.

1.3 Involvement of disabled pupils, staff and parents

The School welcomes parents and carers into school and enjoys their strong support. The School values their views and wants to involve parents in supporting their children's learning.

The Headteacher/ SENCo has taken an active role in the development of this work, seeking support from other school colleagues.

A named Governor has also taken an active role in the development of this work

1.4 Information gathering

At present full information is not available on members of our school community who may have a disability under this definition. We intend to address the collection of this information in the Action Plan.

Curriculum policies are to be reviewed by the working party when it is set up as not every policy includes a statement about accessibility for those with a disability. The action plan targets this area and policies will be amended.

Pupil achievement is regularly monitored during the academic year. The School tracks pupil achievement. Individual Education Plans are reviewed each term and new targets set. There is close liaison with all agencies to ensure that pupil needs are met. A pupil with a statement has a multi-agency review of their statement annually. Pupils considered to be under this scheme, including those not on the SEN register, are reviewed termly.

1.5 Impact assessment

The Disability Equality Scheme will be reviewed annually, as will the Action Plan. The impact of any proposed changes will be reviewed, involving consultation with parties affected, to assess the viability of proposed changes.

2.0 Identifying the main priorities for our school's scheme and deciding on actions

Waldringfield School is an inclusive school. The Ofsted Inspection in 2013 recognised the school's strengths in this area.

The school works closely with other agencies to promote inclusive practices, such as Outreach teams from Special Schools or Support Centres and Advisory Teachers.

The initial work of the working party will address these main areas :

- Data collection – information needed on children and adults in the school community
- Amending curriculum policies to ensure accessibility for all is explicit
- Raising awareness of the support available to pupils within school
- Involving the pupils through the school council in developing future plans

3.0 Making it happen

3.1 Implementation

The Headteacher / SENCo will oversee the accessibility policy and its implementation. It will be monitored by the governors and the SEN Governor is a member of the working party.

A detailed action plan is attached.

3.2 Publication

A copy of the Disability Equality Scheme will be given to each family. It will be included in the pack for all new parents.

3.3 Reporting

The scheme will be reviewed annually. Included in the annual report on the scheme will be

- the progress made on the action plan
- the effect of the action plan

3.4 Reviewing and revising the scheme

Evidence will be drawn from:

- impact assessments,
- data collection
- analysis of questionnaires
- school assessments

The information will identify priorities for the next scheme.

Accessibility Plan 2015

- Waldringfield Primary School Period covered by the Action Plan: Spring 2015-Spring 2016

Senior Member of Staff responsible: Sarah Wood

Governor responsible: Teresa Baldry

Priority	Action Required	Success Criteria	Resources	Timescale	Lead Person	Review arrangements and date
To create a pedestrian only entrance/ exit to our school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise agreement with the village hall committee regarding Gilbert's Gate • Consider improvements to surface on approach to and including footpath up to Gilbert's Gate • Work with the Parish council in improvements to "triangle" and area in front of public footpath 	<p>Gilbert's Gate will be used by parents and children on a regular basis. Public footpath will be more accessible</p>	<p>Time to discuss with members from the VH committee Cost of improvements to footpath and "triangle" area. Contributions from school and from Parish Council Highways Agency grant</p>	<p>Gilbert's Gate Summer Term 2015 Improvements to footpath ongoing (Summer 2017?)</p>	SW	Premises committee termly meeting
To improve the security and use of space in the school office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to change the way that visitors enter our school by installing a secure door within the entrance hall of the school • Governors to discuss and obtain quotes for the work • Seek advice from designers • Action any proposed work • Ensure any modifications meet DDA requirements 	<p>Visitors will enter the school in a more secure way and the children will be safer</p>	<p>Cost of any planned developments</p>	<p>Plans in place by July 2015 with work being carried out over the Summer Holidays</p>	SW Premises cmt	Premises committee termly meeting