

Accessibility Policy



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 Objective

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

Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and single equalities, and the operation of the schools' SEN Policy;
- The school recognises 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
- In performing their duties, directors and staff will have regard to the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) Code of Practice (2002);
- The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respect 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 pupils' diverse needs
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils

Activity

Education and related activities

- The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as SEN advisers and appropriate health professionals from the relevant NHS trusts.
- The school's SENCO, in conjunction with teachers, has the day-to-day responsibility for monitoring the progress and attainment of all our students ensuring reasonable adjustments are made to enable them to access the curriculum, and wider school activities. This may include the deployment of teaching assistants appropriate to facilitate participation.
- Staff will be provided with appropriate training to enable them to devise a curriculum which seeks to remove potential barriers to learning and addresses the needs of all pupils. The curriculum will also include opportunities to raise awareness of disability in order to promote understanding.
- The Beeches school ensure that all activities where possible are inclusive of all students no matter of their physical ability.

Physical environment

- The school design is suited to providing wheelchair access with suitable class rooms on the ground floor at both school sites. There is a disabled toilet in each building. Students who are unstable on their feet will be educated on the ground floor at both sites.
- The school will take account of needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.

Provision of information

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

Linked Policies

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

- SEN Policy
- Equalities Policy

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