



Bethersden Primary School

Disability & Non-Discrimination Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Bethersden primary school school's vision is one of valuing the individuality of all of our children. Across Bethersden primary school we are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. Throughout Bethersden primary school we do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. Bethersden primary school offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. This policy helps to ensure that Bethersden primary school promotes the individuality of all our clusters children, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.
- 1.2 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) of 1995 aims to end discrimination against people with disabilities and to improve access in all areas of life. Since 2002, it has been unlawful for schools and Local Authorities to discriminate against pupils with disabilities in admissions and exclusions, in education, and in associated services.
- 1.3 From 1st October 2004 it is unlawful to discriminate against people with disabilities by preventing them from having access to premises. Along with all other public buildings, our schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable access.
- 1.4 Bethersden primary school Schools Accessibility Plans detail the changes required to our individual school buildings and to other aspects of our school, so that we, as a cluster fulfil our legal requirements, and remove barriers to inclusion for all pupils and staff with disabilities.

2 What is disability?

- 2.1 The Disability and Discrimination Act states that 'a person suffers from a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out day-to-day activities'.
- 2.2 Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight and hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long term and substantial effect on pupils' everyday lives.
- 2.3 Disability is not the same as special educational needs; not all children who are defined as having a disability have special educational needs, and vice versa.

3 Aims

- 3.1 Bethersden primary school is an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our clusters children, and this of course includes pupils with disabilities.

- 3.2** We will ensure that pupils with disabilities have the same opportunities as non-disabled pupils to benefit from the education our school provides.
- 3.3** We will not treat a pupil with a disability less favourably than others because of the nature of his or her disability.
- 3.4** We will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that a pupil or member of staff with disabilities is not placed at a disadvantage.
- 3.5** We will do our best to anticipate the needs of a pupil or staff member with disabilities before he or she joins our school.

4 Removing barriers

- 4.1** Bethersden primary school must and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils and members of staff and of the public are not disadvantaged.
- 4.2** Disabilities can limit the extent to which children are able to participate in the curriculum, and can impede the delivery of information. So, for example, if a child suffers from hearing loss, the teacher will always try and face the child when addressing the class, or, in severe cases, the teacher may wear a microphone and transmitter.
- 4.3** The individual schools Accessibility Plan will cover the measures they have already taken, and are still taking, to improve its school.

5 The physical environment

- 5.1** Bethersden primary school will endeavour to improve provision for disabled pupils and staff by developing the physical environment of the school, within the limits of the resources available. Where necessary, schools will try to improve the following:
- access to the school, by installing setting-down and picking-up points, ramps, handrails and lifts;
 - movement around the building, for example by adaptations, such as improved colour schemes, for people with impaired sight;
 - accommodation within the building, by providing toilets for disabled pupils, sound-proofing for pupils with impaired hearing, and medical rooms;
 - furniture, by procuring rise-and-fall tables, sinks and ovens;
 - information and communication technology, by selecting appropriate hardware and software, and by using minicomms;
 - signage, by putting it in clear print.

6 The curriculum

- 6.1** Bethersden primary school uses teaching strategies to enhance learning and participation in a broad and balanced curriculum. They will find ways in which all pupils can take part in sport, music and drama. Bethersden primary school will try to plan their out-of-school activities and school trips in such a way that pupils with disabilities can participate.
- 6.2** Bethersden primary school will use language that does not offend, and will make staff and pupils aware of the importance of language.
- 6.3** Bethersden primary school will at all times try to ensure that library, reading books and other resources contain positive images of people with disabilities.

- 6.4** Bethersden primary school will regularly reviews the way resources are matched to the needs of all the children. If necessary, to improve the provision, adjustments will be made to classroom organisation, the deployment of support staff, timetabling and staff training.
- 6.5** Many of the adjustments individual schools make are dependent upon individual needs, and we are using increasingly individualised approaches. Individual Education Plans are effective and manageable and can be monitored through the SENCo and inclusion manager.
- 6.6** All Bethersden primary school we seek and respond to guidance from the parents and the children.

7 Information

- 7.1** Information normally provided in writing (lesson content, texts, library resources and information about school events) will be made available in alternative formats that are clear and user-friendly, such as Braille, audio tape, and large print, or it may be transmitted orally, or through lip-speaking or sign language, or through a recognised symbol system, or through ICT.
- 7.2** We always take account of disabilities, be they the pupils' or their parents'. For example, communication with a parent who is visually impaired may need to be by telephone rather than by letter.

8 Staffing

- 8.1** When advertising posts, or interviewing applicants, or deciding on appointments, the governors and staff will follow the necessary procedures, and will not discriminate against people with disabilities.
- 8.2** Should a member of staff become disabled, the governing body will make reasonable adjustments to that person's employment arrangements, or to the premises, in order to enable them to continue in post.
- 8.3** In Bethersden primary school all members of staff will be entitled to professional development and training, and are expected to take advantage of a continuous programme of professional development.
- 8.4** Bethersden primary school will liaise with specialists to support individual pupils. Among these specialists are the following: physiotherapists, educational psychologists, speech therapists, doctors, the school nurse, social workers, and the staff of the voluntary and statutory agencies. As a local authority maintained school we will benefit from the LA's advice, and its provision through the Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired services.

9 Health and safety

- 9.1** Members of staff follow the school's procedures both for the storage and for the administration of medicines to pupils. The school also has procedures for when blood or other bodily substances have to be cleared away.
- 9.2** Named members of staff are qualified in giving first-aid treatment, and the emergency services will be called, should they be required.

10 Policy into practice

- 10.1** The governing body for Bethersden primary school are responsible for the school's duty not to discriminate.

- 10.2** A named governor and a designated member of staff at Bethersden primary school jointly discharge the responsibility of ensuring that we meet our obligation not to discriminate.
- 10.3** The headteacher will ensure that all members of staff are aware of their responsibilities to all pupils without exception.
- 10.4** All Bethersden primary school members of staff are fully committed to the policy of not discriminating against pupils, parents or staff with disabilities.
- 10.5** Parents and carers are asked to keep us informed about any relevant issues, so that we can work towards resolving them.

11 Monitoring

- 11.1** We have high expectations of all our pupils. We monitor a range of data to make sure that all pupils are making the best progress possible, and that no groups of pupils are underachieving.
- 11.2** We monitor:
- admissions;
 - attainment;
 - exclusions;
 - rewards and sanctions;
 - parental and pupil questionnaires.
- 11.3** Evaluations based on these data are then reported to the governing body, and an action plan will be drawn up if necessary.

12 Monitoring and review

- 12.1** The governing body has a named governor with responsibility for matters of disability discrimination. It is this governor's responsibility to keep the governing body informed of any new regulations, and to ensure that the school regularly reviews its processes and procedures. The governor in question also liaises with the LA and other external agencies, to ensure that the school's procedures are in line with those of the LA.
- 12.2** The headteacher implements the school's disability non-discrimination policy on a day-to-day basis, and ensures that all staff are aware of the details of the policy as it applies to them.
- 12.3** The headteacher reports to governors annually on matters regarding disability discrimination.