



## *Equality and Accessibility Policy*

### *Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Access Plan*

This policy should be read with the following policies:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy 2022
- SEND Code of Practice (June 2014)
- Equality Act 2010

#### **Introduction**

The Governing Body of Grove Lea Primary School believes that we work hard to ensure that the culture and ethos of this academy 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, to understand and value diversity.

We have a duty to prohibit all forms of illegal discrimination against school personnel, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and all users of the academy and not to treat disabled people less favourably than able people.

#### **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.’*

This covers the following categories:

- Physical co-ordination
- Manual dexterity
- Ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects
- Speech, hearing, eyesight
- Memory or ability to learn, concentrate or understand
- Perception of risk or physical danger

The DDA 2005 has also extended the definition of disability as follows:

- People with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer (although not all cancers) are deemed disabled before they experience the long-term and substantial adverse effect on their activities.
- Section 18 has been amended so that individuals with a mental illness no longer have to demonstrate that it is “clinically well-recognised”, although the person must still

Updated September 2022

demonstrate a long-term and substantial adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**The purpose and direction of the school's plan: vision and values** 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 academy 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 academy personnel and pupils which result in improved outcomes for disabled pupils, parents/carers and academy personnel in all aspects of school life.

We are proud of our ethos of support, collaboration and respect for one another. We strive to be an inclusive school, creating a safe caring environment for all our pupils to experience success, happiness and excellence, actively seeking to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. All academy users will benefit from the disability equality scheme as it will allow them to take full benefit of the opportunities that this academy offers irrespective of ethnicity, faith, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

### **Aims of the Plan**

- 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 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.

We take all advice, guidance and support needed to ensure we meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities or those who require alternative access arrangements permanently or for a fixed term.

The action plan ensures that:

- The school draws on the expertise of external agencies to provide specialist advice and support.
- The SENDCO has an overview of the needs of disabled pupils.
- There are high expectations.

There is appropriate deployment and training of learning support staff.

- Successful practice is shared within the school.
- The school works with partner schools.
- Disabled pupils have access to extra-curricular activities.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Role of the Local Governing Body - the Local Governing Body has:

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to school are aware of and comply with this policy;

Updated September 2022

- Responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- Responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents;
- Nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and to report back to the Governing Body;
- Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

#### Role of the Headteacher will:

- Work closely with the key person responsible for overseeing the premises and training opportunities.
- Oversee the implementation of the policy, Scheme and Plan;
- Ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- Report to the Governing Body on the procedures in place for school personnel with disabilities;
- Inform the Governing Body on the training programme for school personnel;
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils;
- Annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.
- Helping pupils to recognise, understand and learn how to treat people with disabilities by:
- Identifying different kinds of disabilities;
- Visualising 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;
- Regular information letters;
- Website;
- Annual pupil reports;
- Parent-teacher consultations;
- Curriculum sessions;
- Identifying what needs to be done to improve our programme of extra-curricular activities that will be to the benefit of our disabled pupils;

#### Role of the key person responsible for managing the premises

The key person will fully integrate disabled people into this academy 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;
- Identifying what needs to be done to improve our provision of courses for adults and families who have particular needs in the community;

Updated September 2022

- 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 the aforementioned aspects of this policy;
- Attend the appropriate training programme.

### Role of Pupils

- Pupils will be aware of and comply with this policy.

### Role of Parents - Parents will:

- Be made aware of this policy;
- Work closely with the school.

### **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

Annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the Governing Body.