

# ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

SEPTEMBER

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### **1 Vision Statement**

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation.”

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department of Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head Teacher. At Oakley Cross Primary School the Plan will be monitored by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee.

At Oakley Cross Primary School, we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

1. Oakley Cross Primary School's Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, pupils, parents, staff and governors. When necessary, other outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three-year period ahead of the next review date.
2. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.
3. Oakley Cross Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within school.
4. Oakley Cross Primary School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for pupils, staff and visitors with a disability, within a given timeframe, and anticipating the need, to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:
  - Increase awareness of equality, inclusion and access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; (if a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
  - Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
  - Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include reading books and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
5. Oakley Cross Primary School's Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of the physical environment, curriculum and written information.

6. Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
7. This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
  - Behaviour Management Policy
  - Curriculum Policy
  - Critical Incident Support Plan
  - Equal Opportunities Policy
  - Health and Safety Policy
  - School Brochure
  - School Development Plan
  - Special Educational Needs Policy
  - Staff Development Policy
8. The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of the Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An Accessibility Audit will be completed by the School prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.
9. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.
10. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
11. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Governing Body
12. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority to help support the development and implementation of this Accessibility Plan.
13. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

We ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers.

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan

## **3. Current Good Practice**

### **Physical environment**

Pupils with a medical/physical disability participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, afterschool clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs. We always try to offer solutions to these barriers wherever possible by adjusting what we do.

### **Curriculum**

There can be challenges and barriers which could mean disabled pupils have limited or no access to some areas of the curriculum, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Many other issues affect the participation of disabled pupils for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the prevention of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten. In our school, all pupils with a disability currently have access to all areas of the curriculum (with adaptations as and when necessary, for example one to one support during lessons, supervised free play on large apparatus to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children or personalised curriculums).

### **Information**

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. We offer a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents/carers and staff (should this be requested or if we are aware of a disability that might require this).

#### **4. Access Audit**

The school comprises of one single storey main building and 1 detached external classroom which have level access suitable for wheel chair use.

There are 8 classrooms 1 would have restricted access to wheelchair users.

The dinning hall can be accessed by all.

The school has 1 accessible toilet on site including shower and hoist and changing table facilities.

On-site car parking for staff includes provision for disabled parking and dropped kerbs to the pavement.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

#### **5. Management, coordination and implementation**

We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced. The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the Local Authority specialists to overcome any difficulties that may arise.