



# **Nonington Church of England Primary School** **Disability Equality Scheme**

## **1. School Ethos. Vision & Values**

We seek to serve the local and wider community by offering children a caring and educationally rich learning environment in which to flourish as individuals and become increasingly valuable members of society modelled on Christian Values.

The 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 and will ensure that disabled people are not treated less favourably in any procedures, practices and service delivery.

This school will not tolerate harassment of any person whether a disabled person with any form of impairment or a pupil who is a carer 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:-

- People with cancer or surviving cancer are now included, as are people with HIV and Multiple Sclerosis from the point of diagnosis
- For a mental impairment the need for it to be clinically well recognized has been removed.
- The Disability Equality in Education (DEE) recommends that all pupils with SEN and those with long term medical needs be treated as disabled for the purposes of the Act and for equality. This is in addition to all pupils with long-term impairments, which have a significant impact on their day-to-day activities.

The definition extends to those who have had a disability. (DDA 1995 Part 1 para 2. - (1) The provisions of this Part and Parts II and III apply in relation to a person who has had a disability as they apply in relation to a person who has that disability.)

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. The school recognizes that social, educational and behavioural difficulties are part of this definition.

## **1.2 School's Strategic Priorities**

Learning – all pupils are taught according to need.

Environment – An external ramp provides access to the main entrance. A sloped entrance was provided to allow access to the new cloakroom for class 2/3. The DDA and Accessibility Plan are considered when the new office building was undertaken.

The obligations under the DDA are entirely congruent with the school's obligations to deliver high quality learning opportunities and provision of care for every member of the school community.

## **1.3 Strengths & Weaknesses**

The school has made great strides in promoting equality in recent years through:

- The provision of external ramp to main entrance
- Inclusion of every child matters to meet the needs and abilities of all pupils.
- The small infant classroom is accessible.
- The school building needs further improvement to allow full access to wheelchair users.
- The staffroom is on the first floor which would make it difficult for a disabled member of staff to use it.
- The mobile classroom is not wheelchair accessible.

## **2. The General Duty**

We will actively seek to:

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act
- eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons -This means not representing people in a demeaning way, and it also means not pretending they don't exist and not representing them anywhere at all.
- encourage participation by disabled persons in public life -It is also important to respect the wishes of disabled children in an educational setting so that they do not feel pushed into activities they do not wish to take part in.
- take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons.

## **3. How we will meet the General Duty & Specific Duty**

The production of this disability equality scheme provides us with a framework for integrating disability equality into all aspects of school life and demonstrates how we are seeking to meet the specific duty i.e. to produce a Disability Equality Scheme for our school.

The main actions to be taken in the next three years to promote disability equality are described in the school's Accessibility Plan. This plan will run in conjunction with the School Development Plan and Buildings Development

Plan and will be subject to revision and amendment at the end of the three year period.

### **3.1 Involvement of Disabled People in Developing the Scheme**

Responsibility for developing this scheme lies with the head teacher, SENCO, a School Governor, parent of disabled child, a member of the SEN team.

Developing a voice for disabled pupils, staff and parents/carers

Disabled pupils and their parents and other disabled members of the school community will be involved in devising, monitoring and evaluating this scheme.

Pupils and their parents will have a direct voice into this scheme through review with the head teacher and IEPs.

### **3.2 The Governing Body**

Membership of the Governing Body is open to all eligible persons irrespective of disability. Members of the Governing Body are encouraged to visit school to aid monitoring of measures taken to ensure that Every Child Matters.

### **3.3 Removing physical barriers**

See the School's Accessibility Plan.

Disability in the Curriculum, including teaching and learning

See the School's Accessibility Plan.

Eliminating harassment and bullying. The school has adopted LA policies on harassment at work. The school's Anti Bullying Policy is regularly monitored and reviewed by a team of staff, parents, Governors and Pupils. The latest policy is available from the school office.

### **Reasonable Adjustments**

The DDA requires schools to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled pupils and users of the school are not put at a substantial disadvantage and are able to access the same opportunities as non - disabled peers.

Specifically, the school intends that disabled pupils and users will have the same access to the curriculum, to information and access to the school environment and facilities as non – disabled pupils and users. In planning developments to deliver this intention the school considers the needs of current and future pupils and users of the school. The main strategies to bring about reasonable adjustments in the next three years are described in the Accessibility Plan; however reasonable adjustments are made on an individual basis according to need, by working collaboratively with disabled persons and/or their parents.

The school will be successful in making reasonable adjustments when disabled persons can, wherever possible, participate fully

- in the classroom
- in the school curriculum
- at all times and in all parts of the building

And when

- disabled persons feel part of the life of the school
- disabled persons are included by their peers in all parts of school life
- parents of disabled pupils feel their child is part of the life of the school
- staff feel confident in working with disabled pupils

### **3.4 School Facility Lettings Use by the community**

Developments to improve accessibility of the school to disabled users are required. It is important that community users have full access to all areas of school and hirers/users are asked to discuss their requirements with school staff when booking premises.

### **3.5 Link with the PCT**

The school has a nurse who is available throughout the term on request. Notification of visits is published in the weekly newsletter. She can provide a direct link between school and health care professionals dealing with our pupils and their parents. The nurse plays a leading role in helping the school anticipate and plan for the needs of current and future disabled users of the school.

### **3.6 Information, Performance and Evidence**

The school will collect data annually to help monitor the impact of its policies. Data collected will include information on

- a. Pupil Achievement
- b. Learning Opportunities - i.e. take up of courses/external visits
- c. Exclusions
- d. Social Relationships
- e. Employing, promoting and training disabled staff

### **3.7 Reviewing/Monitoring**

The scheme will be monitored during the year through the Quality Assurance process and through annual review by a team of staff and Governors. The views of those pupils (and their parents) affected by the policy will be sought during IEP reviews and via other means if the pupil is not Statemented. There will be more formal evaluation at the end of the three year cycle. The school will use the information gathered to update and amend the policy, setting new targets in the accessibility strategy to further the aims of the school in this area.

Review Date: January 2011

Senior Member of Staff Responsible: Tobin Wallace-Sims

Day-to-day responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the policy will be Mrs Paula Wright, the Inclusion Manager

Governor Responsible:

Date of Policy: January 2010.