



# Otterburn First School

## Accessibility Policy

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## Accessibility Policy and Plan

Written by: Governors and Executive Head Teacher with advice from SENDCo

Governor responsible: Angela Morrison

Date: Nov2015

Approved by:

Date of approval:

To be reviewed: Nov 2018

### **Rationale**

This policy and plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. The SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) amended part 4 so that it became applicable to education and to prevent discrimination against disabled people in their access to education. This has placed three key duties on schools, which are:-

- *Not to treat disabled students less favourably for a reason related to their disability*
- *To make reasonable adjustments for disabled students, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage*
- *Plan to increase access for disabled students*

A completed access audit informs our accessibility plan (Appendix 1). It is our intention, that over a reasonable period of time and with due regard for funding and resourcing, we will ensure:

- Full access to education including access to the school playing field for all users
- Ensuring that the school site is accessible and safe for all users
- Providing training as appropriate to ensure any child with a disability achieves their full potential (approaches and resources)

Our plan exemplifies the school ethos that:-

- Everyone in the school community is made to feel welcome
- There are high expectations of all pupils
- Staff, governors and pupils share a philosophy of inclusion
- Pupils are equally valued
- Staff seek to remove all barriers to learning participation

In addition, the school recognises it has a responsibility to help children understand the discrimination faced by disabled people and work positively to counteract discrimination.

### **Aims**

- To make education, as a whole, available to disabled children without discrimination.
- To make provision to allow disabled pupils, staff, governors and parents to be fully included in school life.

### **Implementation of the Plan**

The school will take reasonable steps to avoid discrimination against any disabled pupil or adult with particular regard to:-

- Entry to school / admissions policy
- Access (physical)
- The curriculum
- Teaching and learning
- Classroom and school organisation
- The school day / timetabling
- Homework
- Sports
- Extra-curricular activities
- Trips
- Assessment / testing
- Discipline and exclusion

To achieve our intentions the school will:-

- Make reasonable adjustments to the physical setting of the school /classrooms and its day-to-day organisation
- Review health and safety in relation to specific needs, including medical, security, emergency and evacuation systems
- Increase awareness of barriers to access, including space, pathways of travel, signage and decor
- Work closely with the LA regarding admissions policy
- Liaise with parents and prospective parents
- Liaise with pre-school, specialist advisors and secondary schools as appropriate
- Consult with LA and specialist advisors re building work, curriculum and resource provision
- Investigate sources of funding
- Review practices and policies as necessary
- Make arrangements to deliver information in a range of accessible formats
- Address training needs of all staff, including technological advice
- Facilitate appropriate teaching and learning through exemplary deployment of teaching and support staff
- Include all pupils in all curricular and extra-curricular activities, where it is reasonable to do so
- Plan trips and out-of-school activities, with due regard to needs
- **Monitoring and Review**
- The short, mid and long term aspects of the plan will be reviewed annually by the governing body.