



Stowford School

Accessibility Plan

At Stowford School we are committed to providing an accessible environment which 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

The definition of a disability is '*a person suffers a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and life-long adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.*'

Physical and 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.

We recognise that under the Equality Act 2010 (which includes provisions of the duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and as amended by the SENDA (2001)) that '*from September 2002, it will be unlawful for schools and LEAs to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, education and associated services.*' Schools and LEAs must:

- Not treat disabled pupils less favourably
- Take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage (the reasonable adjustment duty)
- That Local Education Authority and school governors have the duty to publish Accessibility Strategies and Plans.

The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improve access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- Increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum to ensure that disabled pupils have access to a full, broad and balanced curriculum by ensuring that teaching and learning is accessible through school and classroom organisation and support, especially deployment of staff, timetabling, curriculum options and staff information and training.
- Improve and make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples

might include hand-outs, timetables, text books and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

Stowford School aims to include all pupils, including those with disabilities, in the full life of the school. Our strategies to do this will include:

- Having high expectations of all pupils
- Finding ways in which all pupils can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music and drama
- Planning out-of-school activities so that pupils with disabilities can participate
- Devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for pupils with disabilities
- Planning the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities
- Raising awareness of disability amongst staff
- Provision of written information for pupils with disabilities in a form which is user friendly
- Ensuring that there are examples of positive images of disabled people within books in the library and classrooms

Equality for disabled pupils is included as an explicit aim in all of the school's policies and is supported by the school's other policies including:

- Teaching and learning
- Equal opportunities policy
- Behaviour policy
- Admissions policy/criteria
- School improvement plan
- SEND policy

This plan relates to the Access Audit of the school. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the work during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will be revisited prior to the end of each three-year period in order to inform the development of the new plan for the following period.

The plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website and copies made available on request.

April 2017