



# Gusford Primary School

*"Promoting Achievement and Success."*

## Accessibility Policy

Person Responsible: Headteacher – C Tapscott

Policy Review: May 2012

Next Review: May 2015

### INTRODUCTION

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act to cover education. From September 2002, the Governing Body has three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
- to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of Gosforth East Middle to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

### PURPOSE AND DIRECTION OF THE SCHOOL'S PLAN (VISION AND VALUES)

Gusford Primary School strives to make all pupils and staff feel safe and secure and builds good relationships in an atmosphere of mutual respect;

- we believe that education in its widest sense should be organised so that pupils at every stage in
- their education will be valued equal;
- equality of access is central to the process of planning, implementing and monitoring the curriculum;
- staff developments, appointment and deployment will be carried out with regard to the accessibility plan.

### PUPILS DATA / SCHOOL AUDIT

At the present time school has 1 physical disabled pupil on roll. There are 5 statemented pupils, with behaviour and medical problems as well as learning needs; pupils with temporary disabilities (fractures etc) will also be catered for within the plan;

Gusford was built in the 1960's and therefore some aspects of the building do not currently meet modern day DDA standards.

The information provided by the SENCO to staff gives details of the disabilities of all pupils on the SEN register and 'pen pictures' are updated on a regular basis;

Academic records (RAISE) show that pupils with statements and at School Action Plus do well when value added data is included and taken into account;

Gusford excludes few pupils, care is taken to work with EBD pupils and strategies are in place to try and prevent exclusion (classroom support, learning mentors, BSS);

At the present time disabled pupils have access to all areas of the curriculum and areas of the Building although some areas need external access due to stairs (infant corridor).

Risk assessments are carried out by all staff where there are possible health and safety issues (eg school trips and for children with needs).

These assessments are included in the teachers' planning and possible hazards are made known to pupils.

### **CONSULTATION DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

Views and aspirations of statemented and School Action Plus pupils are gathered during SEN reviews and parental consultation evenings.

### **INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PUPILS IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Priorities to increase access:

- the careful deployment of learning support;
- increased staff training (particularly classroom assistants);
- continued advice and support from external agencies (Ed Psych; SENTASS; BSS);
- peer mentoring and support;
- the development of a medication / medicines policy.

### **IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT TO INCREASE THE EXTENT TO WHICH DISABLED PUPILS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATION**

The improvements to the physical environment will have to be undertaken from our capital expenditure money and accessibility grants

The overall priorities for physical improvement would be:

- Lift alongside corridor stairs in KS1 hall
- Develop induction hearing loop in new ICT/library area, hall and representative classrooms
- Consider access of main entrance eg lower reception counter & automatic doors

### **IMPROVING THE DELIVERY TO DISABLED PUPILS**

Pupils with statements (learning disability) are at the present time the only group of pupils who may need information given in a different way to the rest of the pupils in the school. To improve information to these pupils staff will ensure:

- information is written correctly into home contact book;
- if necessary contact parents of pupil directly.

### **HOW GUSFORD'S ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FITS WITH OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- SENCO and other senior staff will have due regard to disabled pupils' access to the curriculum. This will be monitored through pupils reviews, Year tutor and other staff briefings;
- The Site Manager and Bursar in conjunction with the Headteacher will be responsible for the accessibility plan and its impact on general public and other users of the building;
- The accessibility plan will be taken into account when discussing and devising other plan and policies such as (a) School Improvement Plan, (b) SEN Policy, (c) Health & Safety Policy, (d) Professional Development Plans.

### **AVAILABILITY OF ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Copies of the school accessibility plan are available in writing on request from the school. If necessary school will consider individual requests to have the plan translated into other language or Braille. A copy is also held by the local authority.

### **REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

The current accessibility plan will begin in April 12 and last for 3 years, until April 2015.

During the Spring term of 2012 the resources sub-committee of the governing body will review the plan after consultation with the Headteacher, Bursar & Site Manager and other appropriate parties. Evaluation of the plan will be written into the action attached to this plan.

### **ACTION PLAN**

Attached is a set of action plans showing what Gusford proposes to do to address these priorities in the 3 years covered by the plan (April 2012 – April 2015).