



## ABBEY WOOD NURSERY SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

*3-year period covered by the plan: 2016-2018*

### **Introduction**

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had 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 the school 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.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

### **Definition of disability:**

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) as follows:

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

### **Key Objective**

The purpose and direction of the school's plan (our vision and values):

Our vision at Abbey Wood is:

#### **For the children:**

- To be welcomed into the school community
- To be valued as an individual

- To be offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiences that will enhance their skills and knowledge
- To be encouraged to be independent in their thinking and learning
- To learn through play and through first-hand experience
- To have access to a meaningful, focused, enjoyable curriculum
- To develop a sense of kindness and respectfulness
- To develop the qualities of confidence, enthusiasm and tolerance and perseverance
- To become prepared for the next stage of their education

#### **For the parents/carers:**

- To be provided with a welcoming environment
- To be valued as individuals
- To have a positive experience of their children's first steps into the educational system
- To work in partnership with the school staff in a spirit of mutual respect, honesty and openness
- To be informed about the curriculum and experiences that are available in the Nursery
- To be aware of and share in the values of the school community

It is our aim to remove, where possible and reasonable any barriers that may hinder a child or their parent from realising our vision for them. Compliance with the DDA is consistent with Abbey Wood Nursery School's aims and equality plan and the operation of our SEN policy.

We recognise our duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):

- Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably.
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage.
- To publish an accessibility plan (as per school website and hard copies available from the school office).

#### **Current access**

All buildings at Abbey Wood Nursery School have disabled access.

#### **To improve the physical environment**

Abbey Wood Nursery School is committed to improving disabled access and will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises.

Any specialist equipment or physical aids needed to access the curriculum will be purchased as required, if not already available in school. Professional advice may be requested for certain items. Improvement with respect to better use of colour in the decoration of the school and providing colour contrast will be addressed through the rolling programme for school redecoration.

**To make improvements in the provision of information**

Abbey Wood Nursery School will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested. The school will provide this within a reasonable period of time and in a format taking into account the views expressed by pupils or parents about their preferred format.

**To increase access to the curriculum**

Abbey Wood Nursery School is responsible for providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils and has a key role in planning to increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils. The school already provides additional provision to enable pupils with learning difficulties to access the curriculum through the SEN framework. In focussing on this part of the duty Abbey Wood Nursery School will consider the needs of a range of disabled pupils and prospective pupils. The school will continue to use a variety of approaches when planning and delivering the curriculum to draw on different strengths and aptitudes of pupils. This could include using flexible grouping arrangements – including ones where pupils with disabilities can work in groups of various sizes with peers and using peer support approaches.

**Review**

The Premises Committee will be responsible for reviewing this accessibility plan. Consultation with the full governing body as well as the school staff will be ongoing and the update will go before the full governing body every 3 years. However, many of the ways in which the plans will need to adapt will depend on the disability which is presented and will be done as required. This plan will be available, on request.