

# Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

## Accessibility Plan

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| <b>Policy Type:</b>         | <b>LGB Policy</b>               |
| <b>Approved By:</b>         | <b>DNEAT Trust Board</b>        |
| <b>Approval Date:</b>       | <b>December 2015</b>            |
| <b>Date Adopted by LGB:</b> |                                 |
| <b>Review Date:</b>         | <b>December 2018</b>            |
| <b>Person Responsible:</b>  | <b>DNEAT Operations Manager</b> |

## **Roles and Accountabilities**

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies whether relating to an individual academy or the whole Trust will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Principal / Head Teacher. The Principal / Head Teacher of each academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

## **Context**

This plan seeks to address the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) and to further the aims of our Mission Statement/Vision by:

*Continuing to improve all aspects of the physical environment of the academy site and other resources so that all disabled pupils can take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by the Academy.*

## **Definition (Equality Act 2010)**

"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"

## **Introduction**

The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Dereham Church of England Junior Academy has three key duties towards disabled pupils, under the Equalities Act 2010:

- 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

The LGB aims to ensure that the academy premises are fit to teach in, by provision of adequate management for the funding, maintenance and review for the upkeep of the fabric of the academy.

## **The purpose and direction of Dereham Church of England Junior Academy's plan: vision and values**

We are a fully inclusive academy serving the needs of the local community. We want all our pupils to develop their intellectual, spiritual, and creative talents. Through recognising and encouraging the successes and achievements of our pupils we want them to develop positive self-esteem. We want all our pupils to value and respect the rights and opinions of others. We are proud of being known as a caring institution with a strong sense of community and we strive to ensure we are fully inclusive. We will continue to regularly review our provision to make certain all our pupils can access the full curriculum.

## **Integration**

It is very important to us as a learning community that all our pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) are integrated in as much of the whole academy's curricular and extra-curricular learning as is practically possible. All staff who teach SEND pupils receive regular training and up-dated information about the specific pupils needs.

This plan sets out the proposals of the Local Governing Body of Dereham Church of England Junior Academy to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas:

1. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in our curriculum
2. Improving the environment to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of the facilities
3. Ensuring that disabled pupils are provided with the appropriate sources of information so that they are not disadvantaged.

## **Summary of actions currently undertaken across the three priority areas**

### **1. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum**

- Laptops are used where appropriate and referrals are made to Access Through Technology when recommended by health professionals.
- Clubs, trips and residentials are offered to all working closely with the family and provider to ensure all needs are met. Risk assessments help identify additional resources including staff members to help ensure that a pupil can participate where possible.
- Swimming is organised for individuals who are unable to take part in some PE sessions.
- Classroom layouts are set up with disability access in mind.

### **2. Improving the physical environment of to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services:**

- The school is undergoing a re-decoration programme and colours chosen provide a clear contrast for pupil with VI.

- There are ramps which ensure access all around the school for wheelchair users.
- There is a disabled toilet with a hoist and shower facilities.
- The Year group toilets are wide enough to enable use of a frame if this is the preferred choice of an individual.

### **3. Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information that is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled:**

- Pupils, parents and staff can have enlarged print and items printed on coloured paper if needed.

It is a requirement that the Dereham Church of England Junior Academy's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. Attached is an action plan showing how Dereham Church of England Junior Academy will address the priority areas identified above.

- Establish an agreed house style using an appropriate font and size, eg, Arial/Comic Sans Serif size 12 or larger for all written communication.
- Transition work to ensure that all new pupils, with any disability requirements for learning discussed to ensure suitable resources are in place before a child formally starts the school
- Any changes/improvements to school premises to be undertaken by approved contractors with the needs of disability access in mind.
- Work with sensory support to look into fire alarm procedures and safety needs of pupils with HI and any additional things that need to be put in place e.g. flashing alarm system.

### **Views of those consulted during the development of the plan**

All sections of the community are being involved in the development of this accessibility plan.

The SEND coordinator has been consulted about very specific details of the provision.

All pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (formerly a statement of educational need) have an annual review where pupils and parents/carers are consulted about the provision offered and are able to contribute evaluative commentary.

There is regular liaison with the sensory support team so that visually impaired children and the pupils with impaired hearing are well supported.

Parents/carers visit the academy prior to admission which also helps us with our planning and information gathering.

### **Management, coordination and implementation**

The coordination of our plan will be led through the Finance and Resources committee who have oversight of our site and all facilities. The head teacher is responsible for its implementation.

**Getting hold of the plan**

Hard copies of our accessibility plan will be available upon request within ten working days and a copy made available on the academy website. The academy prospectus will make reference to the Accessibility Plan.

The academy Complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan

## **Monitoring the plan**

The Plan will be monitored through the LGB.

The Plan may be monitored by Ofsted by part of their inspection cycle and by the DNEAT Multi Academy Trust by part of their Quality Assurance procedures.

We acknowledge that there is a need for on-going awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

## **Impact Assessment**

Impact assessment is a systematic approach to the analysis of the effects of a policy, practice or procedure for disabled pupils, staff and parents.

The main mechanism by which Dereham Church of England Junior Academy will assess the impact of the current policies will be by bringing together:

- a) The issues identified through the involvement of disabled pupils, staff and parents; and
- b) The information that is held regarding disabled pupils, staff and parents.

During the lifetime of the scheme there will be regular assessment of the impact on disabled people of the current policies. Disabled people will be involved in prioritising needs. Impact assessment will be incorporated into planned review and revision of existing policies and into the process of developing new policies.

## **Policy Review**

This accessibility plan will be kept under review in order to keep it in line with relevant legislation; a full review will take place every three years.

## **Links to Other Policies**

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

## **Dereham Church of England Junior Academy Accessibility Action Plan 2017~2018**