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# **THE DEANES**

## **ACCESSIBILITY POLICY**



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## Statement of intent

The Deanes is committed to taking all steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage and therefore works closely with pupils with disabilities, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove any potential barriers to their learning experience.

The academy is active in promoting an inclusive positive environment by ensuring that every pupil is given equal opportunity to develop socially, to learn, and to enjoy academy life. The academy continually looks for ways to improve accessibility within the academy through data collection, parents/carers questionnaires and discussions.

This policy will be implemented at all times and adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents/carers and visitors.

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011

1.2. This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- 'The Equality Act 2010 and academies', DFE (2014)

1.3. This policy will be used in conjunction with the following academy policies and procedures:

- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

## **2. Definition**

2.1. A person is defined as having a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

2.2. The effect of the Equality Act 2010 means that academies cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

- 3.1. Staff members will act in accordance with the academy's Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan at all times.
- 3.2. The headteacher, in conjunction with the local governing body or a select committee, will be responsible for creating an Accessibility Plan with the intention of improving the academy's accessibility.
- 3.3. The local governing body, or a select committee, will be responsible for monitoring the Accessibility Plan.
- 3.4. The local governing body will approve the Accessibility Plan before it is implemented.
- 3.5. All staff members are responsible for ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil, parent/carer or colleague.
- 3.6. The special educational needs and disabilities coordinator (SENCO) will ensure that staff members are aware of individual pupils' disabilities or medical conditions where necessary.
- 3.7. During a new pupil's induction at The Deanes, the SENCO will establish whether the pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the academy should be aware of.
- 3.8. The SENCO is responsible for consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- 3.9. The headteacher, governing body and senior leadership team (SLT) will work closely with the Trust and external agencies to effectively create and implement the academy's Accessibility Plan.
- 3.10. The SENCO will work closely with the headteacher and governing body to ensure that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are appropriately supported.
- 3.11. All staff members and governors will partake in whole academy training on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.12. Designated staff members will be trained to effectively support pupils with medical conditions, such as understanding how to administer insulin.

### **4. Accessibility Plan**

- 4.1. The Accessibility Plan will be structured to complement and support the academy's Equality and Diversity Policy, as well as the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy.
- 4.2. The Deanes' Accessibility Plan demonstrates how access will be improved for pupils with disabilities, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the academy within a given timeframe.
- 4.3. The plan has the following key aims:

- To increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum
  - To improve and maintain the academy's physical environment to enable pupils with disabilities to take advantage of the facilities and education on offer
  - To improve the availability and delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors with disabilities.
- 4.4. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date, which will be in April 2020.
- 4.5. If it is not feasible to undertake all of the plans/works during the lifespan of the Accessibility Plan, some items will roll forward into subsequent plans.
- 4.6. The Accessibility Plan will be used to measure the necessity of making reasonable adjustments in order to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities where practicable.
- 4.7. The Accessibility Plan will be used to advise other academy planning documents and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes.
- 4.8. Both the Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan will be published on the academy website.
- 4.9. The Deanes will collaborate with the Trust in order to effectively develop and implement the plan.
- 4.10. An access audit will be undertaken by the local governing body and SENCO every year.
- 4.11. The academy will provide adequate resources for implementing plans, ensuring pupils are sufficiently supported.
- 4.12. During Ofsted inspections, the inspectorate may include the academy's Accessibility Plan as part of their review.

## **5. Equal opportunities**

- 5.1. The Deanes strives to ensure that all existing and potential pupils are given the same opportunities.
- 5.2. The Deanes is committed to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness.
- 5.3. Staff members will be aware of any pupils who are at a substantial disadvantage and will take the appropriate steps to ensure the pupil is effectively supported.
- 5.4. The Accessibility Plan will detail any barriers which are hindering the opportunities for pupils with SEND. The aim of the plan is to take appropriate measures in order to overcome these barriers, allowing all pupils equal opportunities.

- 5.5. Wherever possible, teaching staff will adapt their lesson plans and the curriculum in order to allow all pupils to reach their full potential and receive the support they need.
- 5.6. The Deanes will ensure that all extracurricular activities are accessible to all pupils. The academy will make all reasonable adjustments to allow pupils with SEND to participate in all academy activities.

## **6. Admissions**

- 6.1. The Deanes will act in accordance with their Admissions Policy.
- 6.2. The academy will apply the same entry criteria to all pupils and potential pupils.
- 6.3. In the event of entry examinations, the academy will support those with SEND by making any reasonable adjustments necessary, e.g. publishing exam papers in a larger font.
- 6.4. The Deanes will strive to not put any pupil at a substantial disadvantage by making reasonable adjustments prior to the pupil starting at the academy.
- 6.5. All pupils, including those with SEND, will have appropriate access to all of the opportunities available to any member of the academy community.
- 6.6. Information will be obtained on future pupils in order to facilitate advanced planning.
- 6.7. Prospective parents/carers of pupils with EHCP, and pupils with SEND, are invited to a transition meeting prior to the pupil starting the academy in order to discuss the pupil's specific needs.

## **7. Curriculum**

- 7.1. The Deanes is committed to providing a healthy environment that enables full curriculum access, which values and includes all pupils regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual and emotional needs.
- 7.2. No pupil is excluded from any aspect of the academy curriculum due to their disabilities or impairments.
- 7.3. The Deanes aims to provide a differentiated curriculum to enable all pupils to feel secure and make progress.
- 7.4. The head of department for each subject and the SENCO will work together to adapt any pupil's EHCP, with advice sought from outside agencies where appropriate, to allow all pupils to reach their full potential.
- 7.5. Physical education lessons will be adapted, wherever possible, to allow pupils with disabilities to participate in lessons.
- 7.6. Where areas of the curriculum present particular challenges for a pupil, these are dealt with on an individual basis.

- 7.7. The class teacher, in discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers, will ensure that all adjustments possible, in line with common sense and practical application, will be made for any particular disability or impairment.
- 7.8. There are established procedures for the identification and support of pupils with SEND in place at the academy.
- 7.9. Detailed pupil information on pupils with SEND are given to relevant staff in order to aid teaching, e.g. 'pupil passports'.
- 7.10. Specialist resources are available for pupils with visual impairments, such a large print reading books.
- 7.11. Learning support assistants are deployed to implement specific literacy, numeracy and speech programmes.

## **8. Physical environment**

- 8.1. The Deanes is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff members, parents/carers and visitors have equal access to areas and facilities within the academy premises.
- 8.2. There are no parts of The Deanes to which pupils with disabilities have limited or no access to.
- 8.3. The academy has toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities which are fitted with a handrail and an emergency pull cord.
- 8.4. There are provisions for nappy changing.
- 8.5. Where entrances to the academy are not flat, a ramp is supplied for access.
- 8.6. Wide doors are fitted throughout the academy to allow for wheelchair access.
- 8.7. The corridor flooring and lighting is designed to support those who are visually impaired.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

- 9.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or when new legislation/guidance concerning equality and disability is published.
- 9.2. The local governing body and headteacher will review the policy in collaboration with the SENCO's support.



## APPENDIX 1 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Curriculum	Issue	What?	Who?	When?	Outcome criteria	Review
Short term	Introduction of Deanes Diploma	Will all students have an equal opportunity to access opportunities provided by The Deanes Diploma?	L. Douglass	September 2017 ad onwards	All students able to fully participate, and succeed with The Deanes Diploma	Termly
Medium term	All students to be able to access the curriculum	Do all students attending The Deanes have a reading age of 10+, giving them the skills to develop their own reading?	L. Stroud	September 2017 onwards	All students to be able to read to a level (10+ years) which allows them to access reading materials, which will enable success in school.	Biannually
Long term	Learning Support to provide effective support across the curriculum	Do all students, particularly those with SEND and the disadvantaged receive personalised support with learning?	L. Stroud	September 2017	Students with SEND and the disadvantaged to receive personalised learning support through a well-trained and qualified learning support team, which compliments quality first teaching	Termly

Physical Environment	Issue	What?	Who?	When?	Outcome criteria	Review
Short term	Students becoming independent with their own medical needs	Are those students with medical conditions supported, and have adjustments been made to the physical	A. Darkins	September 2017	Care Plans in place, and being used by all staff, ensuring the physical environment of the school reflects their requirements to	Termly

		environment enabling independent care to take place?			address medical needs	
Medium term	New build designs for students with disabilities	Are students with disabilities consulted and their views taken into consideration when adjustments are made to the physical learning environment?	L. Stroud	September 2017	The design of building adjustments take into account the needs to those students with disabilities	Annually
Long term	Proposed science/art/ICT corridor	Can all students continue with learning science/art/ICT during the refurbishment of this area?	L. Stroud	April 2018	All members of the school community able to access the curriculum areas of science/art/ICT and continue with learning during refurbishment, and beyond	Termly

Information Provision	Issue	What?	Who?	When?	Outcome criteria	Review
Short term	All members of the school community accessing the schools material/information	Are all members of the school community able to access relevant material regarding the school?	L. Stroud	December 2017	All members of the school community have access to material applicable to the schools values and ethos	Annually
Medium term	All members of the school community understanding the published school material/information	Are all members of the school community able to read and understand relevant material regarding the school?	L. Stroud	December 2017	All members of the school community able to read and understand published school material/information	Annually
Long term	All members of the	Are all members of	L. Stroud	July 2018	All members of the	Annually

	school community understanding the published school material/information	the school community able to read and understand relevant material regarding the school?			school community able to read and understand published school material through its availability in different forms	
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