



Croftlands Infant and Nursery School

Accessibility Plan

Introduction:

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws upon the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002.

Since September 2002, the governing body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils:

- To improve the physical environment.
- To make improvements in the provision of information.
- To increase access to the curriculum.

Definition of disability:

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

"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:

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to full participation in Croftlands Infant and Nursery School for pupil and prospective pupils with a disability.

Principles:

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with Croftlands Infant and 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.

Activity:**To improve the physical environment:**

Croftlands Infant and 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. Recent refurbishment has included disabled toilets and shower room; ramps to all main access and exit points and designated car parking spaces.

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:

Croftlands Infant and 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:

Croftlands Infant and 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 and this will cover many disabled children.

In focussing on this part of the duty Croftlands Infant and 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 and Health and Safety governors subcommittee will be responsible for reviewing this accessibility plan. In turn this will feed into the school improvement plan. Consultation with the full governing body as well as the school staff will be on going 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.