

# **Darwen Vale High School**



# **DARWEN VALE**

An Aldridge Community Academy 

## **Disability (Accessibility) Policy - Pupils**

## **Introduction**

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the planning duty of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance from:

“Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils” (DFES July 2002) and “Getting it right for future generations” (Four S SCC April 2003)

## **Definition**

The legislation defines disability as physical, sensory, intellectual or mental impairment. Discrimination means treating pupils, employees and visitors less favourably than others without justification.

## **Statement of Purpose**

Darwen Vale High School and Engineering College works in close partnership with the Local Authority and as such this Accessibility Policy sets out the Governors’ response to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 which requires that a pupil should not be treated less favourably because of a disability and to ensure inclusion and equality of opportunity for all pupils.

Darwen Vale aims to reduce and where possible eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to achieve full participation in the school community for pupils and prospective pupils with a disability.

The school also aim to improve accessibility for employees and visitors to the school who also have a disability.

## **Key Principles**

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school’s aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the schools SEN Policy.

Darwen Vale High School and Engineering College recognises its 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, employees or visitors less favourably
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils, employees or visitors at a substantial disadvantage

- To publish an Accessibility Plan (**See attached Appendix 1**)

The school will:

- Recognise and value parents knowledge of their Childs disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activity, and respect the parents' and Childs right to confidentiality
- Provide all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles.

### **Aims/Objectives**

(a) Curriculum – the aim is to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum by ensuring that curriculum and other planning takes account of all forms of disability and makes provision for a wide range of needs so that all pupils have access to an excellent education, both academic and social as set out in the school's Mission Statement.

(b) Physical environment – the aim is to improve the physical environment of the school for disabled pupils, employees and visitors and to increase the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of the education provided by the school by ensuring that, as far as reasonably practicable, the needs of pupils with disabilities are met.

(c) Information – the aim is to improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils, employees and parents/carers by ensuring that written and other communication takes into account the needs of those individuals with disabilities.

### **Admission arrangements for pupils with disabilities**

Darwen Vale High School and Engineering College arrangements for the admission of pupils with disabilities who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), an Individual Pupil Resource Agreement (IPRA) or a Medical Plan, begin with the transitional review of the statement, to which the Darwen SENDCO is invited and who remains involved from that time.

For other children with a disability, in addition to information provided by the primary school, parents are asked to give details of any special need which is then followed through by the SENDCO. Darwen Vale also has a specialist unit where needed for pupils with disabilities to provide specialist teaching and/or provide support in mainstream classrooms.

### **Implementation**

## **General**

The Head teacher will make all employees at the school aware of the Accessibility Policy and Plan.

## **Education and related activities**

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services and outside agencies such as specialist teacher advisors and SEN consultants, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

(See checklist provided on page 29, DFES Guidance “Accessible schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils”

## **Physical Environment**

Darwen Vale High School and Engineering College will take account of the needs of pupils, employees and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairment when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

(See checklist on page 30, DFES Guidance “Accessible schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils”

## **Provision of Information**

The school will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the Local Authority, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

## **Action Plan**

Darwen Vale High School and Engineering College will publish an Accessibility Plan outlining short, medium and long term targets to ensure that the aims and objectives of this Accessibility Policy are met.

## **Linked policies**

This Policy will contribute to the review and revision of school related policies

- School Development Plan
- Staff Development Plan
- SEN Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Curriculum Policies

### **Review**

The plan will be kept under review by the Governing Body regularly and revised as necessary.

### **Staff Responsible**

Principal	-	Matthew Little
SENDCO	-	Sharron Pollitt

**This policy is also available by e-mail or in an enlarged print format on request to the school office.**

## Appendix 1 - Accessibility Plan (September 2021)

Goal	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Short Term	Ensure compliance with DDA and code of practice	Employees and Governors reminded of requirements and obligations of DDA and of the Accessibility Plan	Staff/Governors meeting to share Accessibility Plan and school compliance with requirements	December 2021	
Medium Term	Classrooms to be successfully organised for disabled pupils where appropriate	Conduct audit of teaching bases. Access advice from LA experts	Accessibility for all pupils increased	December 2021	
Long Term	To monitor all pupils with disabilities to ensure their needs are being met	Review IPRA's, EHCP's and Medical Plans termly	Identify targets and ensure the school building is accessible to those with disabilities	Ongoing	