



## **Ashlands Primary School Accessibility Policy and Plan.**

*"Where every child has the chance to shine"*

**This policy embodies our Ethos Statement – Safe Children at Ashlands**

### **Role and Responsibilities:**

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools should have an Accessibility Policy and plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that "schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation". According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if: He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The Accessibility plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At Ashlands Primary School, the plan will be monitored by the headteacher and evaluated by the Governors. The current plan will be appended to this document. The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon Aims of the Policy and Plan:

### **Our Commitment:**

Ashlands 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. We will address the needs of individuals when we become aware of these to make the school as accessible as possible. The school 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 school life. The school continually looks for ways to improve accessibility within the school through data collection, parents/carer questionnaires and discussions. This policy will be implemented at all times and adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents/carers and visitors. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Buildings Committee which focusses on issues related to Premises. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Equal opportunities:**

Ashlands is committed to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness. Ashlands Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school. Ashlands strives to ensure that all existing

and potential pupils are given the same opportunities. 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.

### **Admissions:**

Ashlands will act in accordance with the Local Authority's Admissions Policy. We will strive to not put any pupil at a substantial disadvantage by making reasonable adjustments prior to the pupil starting at the school. Information will be obtained on future pupils in order to facilitate advanced planning. Prospective parents/carers of statemented pupils, and pupils with SEND, are invited to a transition meeting prior to the pupil starting the school in order to discuss the pupil's specific needs. CPD Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

### **Accessibility Plan:**

The Ashlands Primary School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum to allow all children to access it fully. (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
- Ashlands will act in a flexible manner to provide the best access to the curriculum for every child in school. We will also support families where because of circumstances a child is not able to attend school for a time.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
- During the Covid 19 Pandemic we made laptops and ipads available for our children who did not have this technology at home to enable them to access the online learning that was available. Some parents requested photocopied resources which we provided to them to support home learning.

**The Policy was agreed by the governors:** Nov 2021

**Review Interval:** Annually

**Next Reviewed:** Nov 2022