

## Disability Policy

### Statement

*This policy aims to promote equality of access to this School. It is defined according to Part IV of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the 2001 Special Educational Needs and Disability Act) which gives schools a duty to increase more and more schools' accessibility for pupils with disabilities. It should be read in the context of other school policies; especially the Special Educational Needs Policy, and the Racial Equality Policy/ Equal Opportunities Policy.*

### Definition of Disability

The 1989 Children's Act states that a child is disabled if he/she is blind, deaf, dumb, suffers from mental disability of any kind, is disabled due to illness or injury, is disabled since birth or suffers from some other specific disability. Physical defects do not need to have been acknowledged clinically nor even have been clinically diagnosed. However, mental defects need to have a clinical diagnosis.

### Aims

1. *Increase accessibility in the wider sense, to ensure that the teaching and learning is wholly attainable for every pupil.*
2. *Comply with the three elements of the duty of planning as noted in Section 28D of the SEN and Disability Act 2001:*
  - a) *Increase the degree that disabled pupils can take part in the school curriculum;*
  - b) *Improve the school's physical environment so as to increase the degree that pupils with disabilities can take advantage of the education and associated services in schools; and*
  - c) *Improve the way that written information given to pupils without disabilities are presented to pupils with disabilities.*

### Intentions

*In planning for the needs of pupils and future pupils with disabilities, the school improves access to pupils with disabilities, and can improve access to staff, parents and members of the public who have disabilities too. This helps the school to achieve its legal duties under Parts II and III of the DDA which have become relevant, step by step, to schools and the LEA since 1996 (see the Welsh Office Circular 20/97).*

1. *Implement the School Accessibility Plan in its terms of reference and review it annually.*
2. *Comply with the duty defined in Part IV of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.*
3. *As a result, improve accessibility to the school's building, curriculum and documentation.*

### Implementation Guidelines

*The school will:*

- *ensure that building/adaptation/maintenance work arranged by the school takes into consideration the needs of children and young people with disabilities, staff and other members of the school community*
- *conduct an accessibility survey*
- *develop an inclusive ethos*
- *provide specialist apparatus to satisfy individuals' needs*
- *ensure training and advice to governors, teaching staff and ancillary staff*
- *cooperate with other agencies to support accessibility and inclusion*