

**DOVE HOUSE SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST**

**ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Policy issued July 2014
Approved by Colin House, Headteacher, Gail Everson, Vice-Chair of Governors
Signed .....Colin House, Gail Everson.....
Approved by Governing Body on 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2014 Next Review to be July 2017

*The following Accessibility Plan should be read and used to assist in identifying and reviewing specific arrangements and responsibilities for Accessibility at Dove House School and adapted as necessary.*

**Policy Statement**

**Introduction**

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995), as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001. It is based upon DfES guidance July 2002 'Accessible Schools; Planning to increase access to Schools for disabled pupils'.

It should be noted that the original school site and buildings were not designed with disabled requirements in mind. The school does make appropriate and realistic attempts to accommodate students with disabilities as part of our inclusive approach.

**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'.

**Principles**

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and Single Equality Scheme and the operation of the school's SEN policy.
- The school recognises its duty under the DDA (amended by the SENDA) not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions and provision of education and associated services; not to treat disabled students less

favourably; to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled students at a substantial disadvantage; to publish an Accessibility Plan.

- In performing their duties, Governors and staff will have due regard to the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) Code of Practice 2002.
- The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.
- The school provides all students with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual students and their preferred learning styles.

### **Objective**

- To reduce and eliminate the barriers to access to the curriculum, and to enable full participation in the school community for students, and prospective students, with a disability.
- The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LEA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors and advisers and appropriate health professionals.
- The school will take into account the needs of students 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 and more accessible fixtures and fittings.
- The school will make itself aware of local services, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.