

17 May 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

Disability Information and Support

I am writing to ask for your help in ensuring the school supports all students and families who have any form of disability. As a school we wish to ensure that we not only provide effectively for students in school, but also for parents and carers who work with the school in support of students. The Disability Discrimination Act requires all public authorities, including secondary schools, to produce and publish a Disability Equality Scheme to ensure we support all to the best of our ability. We can only achieve this with your continuing help. We are already responding to the needs of many, but the definition of disability is wide ranging, and it is likely that the school is not aware of all the needs or difficulties of all members of its wider community.

What do we understand by 'disability'?

"Disability is a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities" (DDA 1995 Part 1 Para 1.1). This definition was amended and broadened in December 2005 under the 2005 Disability Amendment Act:-

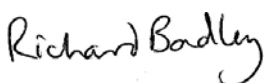
- People with cancer or surviving cancer are now included, as are people with HIV and Multiple Sclerosis from the point of diagnosis.
- For a mental impairment the need for it to be clinically well recognised has been removed.

The Disability Equality in Education Act (DEE) recommends that all students with SEN and those with long-term medical needs be treated as disabled for the purposes of the Act and for equality. This is in addition to all students with long-term impairments which have a significant impact on their day-to-day activities. This school uses the "social model" of disability, ie we recognise that disability may be caused by the physical, environmental and attitudinal barriers which exist in the education system and in society as a whole. The Local Authority recognises that social, educational and behavioural difficulties are part of this definition. We understand that the definition of disability under the Act is different from the eligibility criteria for special educational needs provision. This means that disabled people may or may not have special educational needs.

If you have any thoughts which will help us in supporting you, please let us know by completing the form below and returning it to school. Any information you provide will only be shared within school and with our supporting agencies to address the needs and requirements you raise.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Richard Badley
Headteacher

DISABILITY INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Name of Student Tutor Group

Disability of Parent/ Carer/ Student: Name

Nature of Disability

Do you consider that the school is already aware of your concerns and needs? YES / NO

If the answer is Yes, how was the school informed of your needs?

SEN statement / pastoral support meeting / letter or telephone call into school /

Other (please specify)

Please state how you think we could more effectively support you in working with the school to allow access to:

the curriculum, (eg learning and teaching, day-to-day classroom activities, activities beyond the classroom, homework, access to the internet)

the buildings, (eg parking, access through doorways, inside and out, access to specialist rooms, access to different parts of the buildings)

Information Advice and Guidance, (eg contacting the school by telephone or email, access to school texts, newsletters, pastoral support of the Year Teams, students and parents meetings, after-school meetings, school website, connexions service and careers advice)

Would you like a meeting in school to discuss this issue further? YES / NO

Any other comments you would like to make:

I agree that this information can be shared within school and with supporting agencies to address the needs and requirements I have raised YES / NO

SIGNED DATE

Please return this form to school reception in a sealed envelope, marked "Disability Support"