

Meadowdale Primary School Inclusion Policy



Date: November 2023

Review Date: November 2026

Responsibility of: Full Governors

Introduction

Meadowdale Primary School we believe that equity is paramount and that everyone has the right to learn and work in an environment where they can flourish, achieve excellence and their well-being is a priority.

We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. This policy helps to ensure that this happens for all the children in our school – regardless of their age, gender identity, ethnicity, race, attainment or background. In our school the achievements, attitudes, safety and well-being of every child are paramount. We follow all necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all our children into account when planning for teaching and learning.

Aims and objectives

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school:

- gender identities;
- minority ethnic and faith groups;
- children who need support to learn English as an additional language;
- children with special educational needs and disabilities;
- any children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion;
- any looked after or previously looked after children;
- any children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- any children who are identified as vulnerable
- any children who are eligible for pupil premium funding.

Our curriculum and planning is designed to meet the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. We do this through:

- setting suitable learning challenges;
- responding to children's diverse learning needs;
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils;
- providing other required interventions outside our curriculum to meet the needs of individuals or groups of children (includes speech and language therapy and physiotherapy, counselling, intervention, 1:1 tuition, social communication).

We achieve educational inclusion by continually reviewing what we do, through asking ourselves these key questions:

- Do all our children achieve as well as they can?
- Are there differences in the achievement of different groups of children?

- What are we doing for those children who we know are not achieving their best?
- What impact does our work have?
- What do we do with the information?
- Are our actions effective?

Teaching and learning

We aim to give all our children the opportunity to succeed and reach the highest level of personal achievement from their different starting points. When planning the curriculum, teachers take into account the abilities of all of their children. For some children, we use the curriculum from earlier key stages. This enables some of our children to make progress at their own level, regardless of their starting point, perhaps after significant amounts of time spent away from school.

When the attainment of a child falls significantly below the expected level, teachers enable the child to succeed by planning work that is in line with that child's individual needs.

Teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering all 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation). Teachers ensure that children:

- feel secure and know that their contributions are valued;
- appreciate and value the differences they see in others;
- take responsibility for their own actions;
- participate safely in clothing that is appropriate to their religious beliefs;
- are taught in groupings that allow them all to experience success;
- use materials that reflect a range of social and cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping;
- have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different needs;
- are encouraged to participate fully, regardless of disabilities or medical needs.

Children with disabilities

Some children in our school will have disabilities and consequently need additional resources. The school is committed to providing an environment that allows these children full access to all areas of learning. All our classroom entrances are wide enough for wheelchair access and the designated points of entry for our school also allow wheelchair access. Our school adheres to the Equalities Act 2010.

Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for these children. For example, they may give additional time to children with disabilities to complete certain activities or adapted resources. In their planning teachers ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum. Support Assistants are effectively deployed to support teachers in achieving the best outcomes for groups or individual children.

Teachers ensure that the work for these children:

- takes account of their pace of learning and the equipment they use;
- takes account of the effort and concentration needed in oral work, or when using, for example, vision aids;
- is adapted or offers alternative activities in those subjects where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment, or use certain types of materials;

- allows opportunities for them to take part in educational visits and other activities linked to their studies;
- includes approaches that allow e.g. hearing-impaired children to learn about sound in science and music, and visually-impaired children to learn about light in science, and to use visual resources and images both in art and design and in design and technology;
- uses assessment techniques that reflect their individual needs and abilities.

Disapplication and modification

The school can, where necessary, modify or disapply EYFS or the National Curriculum and its assessment arrangements. Our school policy is to do this only in exceptional circumstances. The school makes every effort to meet the learning needs of all its children without recourse to disapplication or modification. We achieve this through greater differentiation of the child's work, or through the provision of additional resources. When necessary, we also support learning through appropriate external specialists. In such cases, teachers work closely with these agencies to support the child.

In exceptional circumstances we may decide that modification or disapplication is the correct procedure to follow. We would only do this after detailed consultation with parents and the DfE. We would ensure that every effort had been made to provide the necessary support from within the school's resources before considering such action.

Should we go ahead with modification or disapplication, we would do so through:

- Section 364 of the Education Act 1996. This allows modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it, through a statement of special educational needs;
- Section 365 of the Education Act 1996. This allows the temporary modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it.