

**Minutes of the Godinton Primary School Equality Working Group
Monday 15th January 2018**

Present : Sarah Stein (SS)
Steve King (SK)
Charlotte Wright (CW)

Apologies : Katrina Virgo (KV)

SS welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Accessibility Plan – Short Term targets :

SS distributed a draft document which includes the targets discussed at the last meeting. These have been reviewed and approved by the headteacher.

It was noted that comparison with other schools Plans indicated that our format was more detailed and there was no indication that other schools had similar groups assisting in compilation of the plan. It was agreed that we should continue with our format and involve the Equality Working Group in the process.

CW asked if any thought had been given to training for Mid-Day Meals Supervisors. SS confirmed that consideration has begun and includes a review of cost implications and the need to co-ordinate the training for maximum effect.

SS reported on the meeting held to discuss the needs of a hearing impaired child who may be joining the school in September as mentioned at the last meeting. The meeting revealed that the child now wears hearing aids which have significantly improved his situation. It is likely that he is going to be provided with a radio aid for use in nursery that could be utilised in school when he moves over. There would be no charge to the school for this. With these aids in place it is not expected that more complex interventions, above the usual speech and language support, will be needed. In view of this there is no need to cover the child's needs as a target in the accessibility plan.

2. Accessibility Plan – Medium and Long Term targets :

The Group considered Medium and Long Term targets under the three main headings and agreed the following :

- ***Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum :***

For the Medium term, two targets were identified. For the first target, an audit of staff training needs was proposed to establish what disability related training staff would benefit from. The results would then be used to produce a training programme. For the second target, the forthcoming curriculum review to be led by Assistant Headteacher, Hayley Collins will be included.

For the Long Term target, it was proposed that the school should continue its excellent support for pupils for access to school trips and enrichment activities. It was felt that this could include an enrichment activity with a disability focus. In addition SS proposed a review of PE training to ensure staff are focussed on actions and resources needed to ensure inclusion of disabled pupils.

- ***Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services :***

For the Medium Term target, a sensory review of the classroom environment was proposed. This is to include making staff aware of what is needed for a balanced sensory environment (i.e. balanced displays) and creating a sensory box (a box containing sensory resources) for each classroom.

For the Long Term target the group discussed access by wheelchair users in particular manoeuvring corridors. Discussion concluded in the proposal that the target should be to fit alarm activated door closers to corridor doors which would allow these doors to be left open during school sessions to allow ease of access.

- ***Improving the deliver to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled :***

For the Medium term, two targets were identified. For the first target, it was proposed that the short term target to provide one i-pad for each year group, to increase opportunities for disabled and SEN children through need specific apps, speech to text, notes etc., should be expanded to ensure one i-pad is held by each class. For the second target, it was proposed that we research available electronic / mechanical aids and undertake trials to evaluate potential effectiveness with a view to possible purchase.

For the Long Term target the Group was unable to come up with a specific target other than continuing consideration of equipment needs. It was left that SMT would be consulted to establish whether there was anything they wished to include.

SS will add the items discussed to the Plan and circulate the draft to members of the Group and to SMT for comment / approval. Group members were asked to respond quickly with the view to uploading the final version of the plan on to the school website.

3. Any Other Business :

- CW reported that Brake Foods have a community outreach programme which includes support for local charities. The Group felt it would be worth contacting Brakes to see if they might consider supporting our i-pad proposals. CW will make contact and report back at the next meeting.
- SS reported that the SEND coffee mornings have at last taken off. The last event included 8 parents who commented that the event was helpful and benefitted from attendance by SS. The next coffee morning is planned for Monday 22nd January.

4. Future Meetings :

It was agreed that the next meeting consider fund raising opportunities for provision of i-pads.

The next meeting was set for **Monday 12th March at 9am**