

**Minutes of the Godinton Primary School Equality Working Group
Monday 11th December 2017**

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

Apologies : None – All members present.

SS welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Accessibility Plan : SS explained that the group needed to consider a new 3-year Accessibility Plan and proposed starting with the short-term targets under the three main headings then holding another meeting early in Term 3 to consider the medium and long term targets.

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

Discussion centred on the importance of play times to children and for them to be included in a variety of activities while feeling any issues they have are addressed appropriately by the adults supervising them.

Inclusive positive play for all was considered to be a key element. SS advised that it is planned that PTFA funding would be used to provide equipment for use in the playground to help achieve this aim.

A process for children to raise concerns, in particular where they feel an issue has not been resolved, will be introduced and will include training for mid-day meals supervisors on dealing with issues that arise. Reintroduction of Chatterboxes in class rooms will also be considered whereby children can drop in a card bearing their name indicating they have an issue they wish to discuss.

Promotion and understanding of differences was thought to be useful in ensuring a better understanding of different needs. It was suggested displays are put up covering things such as dyslexia this could be supplemented by discussions in class which are teacher led.

Other areas for consideration were the need to promote playground rules, especially in early years and using the playground buddies to help promote play.

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

Discussion started with agreement that the target in the previous plan to maintain disabled access to equipment, educational visits and swimming was an important target that the school successfully achieves already but it was felt that it should be included as a target for the new plan to ensure focus continues on this important area.

It was proposed that a further target should be to refresh existing features (ie yellow line painting on the edge of steps) which are showing signs of age.

Focus then turned to the new equipment to be funded by PTFA and it was agreed that in selecting the equipment thought must be given to its suitability to promote and allow accessibility.

SS reported that a child with a hearing impairment may be joining the school in September 2018. She is due to have a meeting to establish the child's particular needs which could then be included as a medium term target. It was agreed that consideration could also be given to installing a hearing loop at reception to assist those with a hearing impairment although the school has not been made aware of any current parents with hearing disabilities.

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

It was agreed that the 16 i-pads provided under the old accessibility plan were of great use but it was felt the addition of one i-pad to each class would provide added benefit. Discussion followed on how this could be funded due to the school's limited resources. It was suggested that a fund raising activity specifically for this purpose would generate funds for at least some additional i-pads. Suggestions ranged from a non-uniform day with a £1 donation to setting up a 'just Giving' page and seeking voluntary contributions.

SS will draft the short term targets for the new plan based on the details above.

2. Future Meetings :

It was agreed that the next meeting would look at the medium and long term targets for the new plan.

The next meeting was set for **Monday 15th January at 9am**