



LINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Partners in Learning
Headteacher Mr Ron Gandolfo Bed
Email: info@lingfield.surrey.sch.uk

Vicarage Road
Lingfield
Surrey
RH7 6HA
Tel: 01342 832626
Fax: 01342 836167

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Dear Parents

Lingfield School Disability Equality Scheme

As a consequence of current disability legislation the School is required to produce a Disability Equality Scheme. The development of the Scheme should involve disabled groups across the school community and the focus of the Scheme should be an acknowledgement of the needs of disabled users in the School's practices, procedures and day to day business. The Scheme will involve an Action Plan identifying priorities and reviewing current practice.

The effectiveness of the Scheme will depend on identifying needs through knowledge and understanding of those members of the school community – parents, pupils and staff – who have a disability. The purpose of this letter is to make you as parents aware of the range of disability covered by the legislation and to give you an opportunity, if you feel it is appropriate, to make the School aware of your particular circumstances.

The Disability Discrimination Act defines a disabled person as someone who has **'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'**

The Act defines key terms as follows:

'physical impairment' includes sensory impairments

'mental impairment' includes learning difficulties and an impairment resulting from or consisting of a mental illness

'substantial' means 'more than minor or trivial'

'long term' is defined as 12 months or more

The 'effect on normal day-to-day activities' is one of the following:

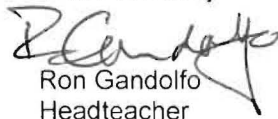
- Mobility
- Ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects
- Manual dexterity
- Speech, hearing or eyesight
- Physical co-ordination
- Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand
- Continence
- Perception of risk or physical danger

Conditions such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and HIV are also included in the definition.

It is very important that in seeking to gather such information from parents, we acknowledge the potential sensitivity of the issue and respect confidentiality. If you feel that it is inappropriate for the School to be aware of your circumstances, then of course we do not expect you to respond to this letter, although we would hope that you would understand why we have sent it to you.

If, however, you feel that you would like to respond, please write to me confidentially. All of the information you offer is voluntary and will only be used to help the School develop an appropriately comprehensive Disability Equality Scheme designed to give you the best service we can. Alternatively, I would be happy to see you personally.

Yours sincerely


Ron Gandolfo
Headteacher



www.lingfieldschool.com

Surrey County Council



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