



## DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

### LEARNING DIFFICULTIES & LEARNING DISABILITIES POLICY

The policy is an integral part of the teaching and learning of all pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD). It seeks to improve provision by guiding and clarifying practice and improving communication between all parties who are involved with the pupil who has learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

**This policy has been informed by the Equality Act of 2010.**

Ditcham Park School recognises that all children have their own learning styles and needs, educational or otherwise. Some may entail individual consideration and special teaching support from time to time, these are known as Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD) and recognise that these may occur throughout the educational spectrum. Where any pupil, including pupils of EAL, has any difficulty which inhibits his / her capacity to learn and make progress at a rate similar to that of their peers, then relevant additional support will be made available for as long as that difficulty persists.

This policy is implemented by all the teaching and Learning Support staff and is led and co-ordinated by the Head Teacher, Senior Management and the Head of Learning Support.

It is central to the ethos of Ditcham Park School that all pupils are equally valued and share a right to a broad balanced curriculum which promotes personal development preparing them for increasing independence and responsibility. To this end all pupils are offered relevant help and assistance in their learning wherever and whenever a need is identified. In some circumstances, and with the agreement of parents, teachers and Learning Support staff, a pupil may receive one to one support from a specialist literacy/numeracy teacher to meet a specific learning disability need.

This 1:1 support entails a fee to parents

#### **Aims**

The broad aims of the policy inform a practice which aims:

- 1 To promote high quality practice and provision in relation to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).
- 2 To meet the learning requirements of all pupils and value all pupils.
- 3 To ensure early identification of learners with difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) and early intervention.

- 4 To cultivate an ethos which promotes a creative, sensitive and secure environment which will enable pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities(LDD) to develop a growing confidence in their abilities.
- 5 To enable each pupil to learn and progress according to his / her full potential (academically, socially and emotionally).
- 6 To provide access to a broad, balanced and relevant education.
- 7 To ensure (within an independent school framework) that age, gender, race, culture, learning difficulties and/or disabilities or other individual needs do not constrain any educational entitlement.
- 8 To work in partnership with staff, external agencies, parents and pupils to these ends.

**Objectives:**

These objectives support the broad aims of this policy and intend:

- 1 To seek and take into account the views of the pupils and to encourage pupils to participate in decision making, assessment, planning and reviews.
- 2 To encourage pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) to be independent learners and to develop strategies for organisation, self-discipline and respect for their own and others learning.
- 3 To support pupils to develop and maintain self-esteem.
- 4 To ensure that all staff have high expectations of all pupils.
- 5 To encourage all pupils to aim for high standards.
- 6 To integrate pupils with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities (LDD) into the school community, where practical, by making full use of specialist and support staff.
- 7 To encourage positive and constructive attitudes by all pupils towards those pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).
- 8 To assist teachers to identify learners with difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) and take relevant and purposeful action to meet the needs as soon as possible.
- 9 To secure training and the necessary assistance for teachers working with pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).
- 10 To monitor the progress of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) by setting appropriate targets, providing support,

evaluating outcomes and maintaining consistent records.

- 11 To assist the school to achieve the highest standards of provision by liaising with relevant outside agencies where appropriate.
- 12 To communicate effectively with outside agencies, professionals and Local Authorities where appropriate.

Details of the implementation of this policy can be found in the Ditcham Park Staff Handbook.

Helen Parrott  
Head of Juniors  
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