



the *Kind's* school

specialising in maths and computing

Auxiliary Aids and Equipment Policy

Approval Date April 2015
Review Date April 2016
Governor Committee Behaviour & Discipline

AUXILIARY AIDS AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

1 Policy Statement

The school and the Local Authority acknowledge our reasonable adjustment duties under the Equality Act 2010 so that disabled students are not at a substantial disadvantage compared to their peers. We will consider whether to provide auxiliary aids that are directly related to disabled children's educational needs as a reasonable adjustment, particularly where the child is not provided for under an SEND statement, or where the statement does not provide the auxiliary aid or service. The duty to make reasonable adjustments is an anticipatory duty - it requires thought to be given in advance to what children and young people might require and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage. This means that it applies not only to disabled students who are already at a school but also to disabled students who may be admitted in the future.

2 Purpose

The term "auxiliary aids" found in the Equality Act 2010 covers both auxiliary aids and services but there is no legal definition for what constitutes auxiliary aids and services. Legal cases have referred to the Oxford English Dictionary definition of auxiliary as "helpful, assistant, affording aid, rendering assistance, giving support or succour" and that auxiliary aids and services "are things or persons which help a child or young person at school." Examples of what may be considered an auxiliary aid could be; hearing loops; adaptive keyboards and special software. However the key test is reasonableness and what may be reasonable for one school to provide may not be reasonable for another given the circumstances of each case.

3 Scope

The duty covers all children who are disabled within the definition given in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. The Act defines a disabled person as: "a person who has a physical or mental impairment, such impairment having a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities." The school will consider whether to provide auxiliary aids that are directly related to disabled children's educational needs as a reasonable adjustment, particularly where the child is not provided for under an SEN statement, or where the statement does not provide the auxiliary aid or service. School will be responsible for the provision of an auxiliary aid or service, if they consider that any disabled student will be at a "substantial disadvantage" in comparison with non-disabled students. A number of factors, including the cost of the aid, effectiveness, and impact on the disability, would all have to be considered when deciding whether or not it would be reasonable to provide the aid.

4 Responsibility

Staff - All staff will be responsible for making reasonable adjustments for any disabled student. Furthermore staff will signpost students who they believe may benefit from using an auxiliary aid or service to the appropriate Year Achievement Leader.

Parents/Carers - Parents/Carers can directly request an auxiliary aid or service from the appropriate Year Achievement Leader and the School will consider their request according to the factors described above.

5 Publicity

The policy will be posted on the Shared (G) drive of the School's IT network and the School website.