



**Deanshanger Primary School**  
**The Green**  
**Deanshanger**  
**Milton Keynes**  
**MK19 6HJ**

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Friday 29th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of DPS children,

The Leadership and Governors of DPS would like to openly share the outcome of a grievance that has been ongoing for some time. A child at DPS was considered by the parents to have been discriminated against and after considerable reflection, we recognise that support for the family/child could have looked different. The School have unreservedly apologised to the child's parents and, previously, had sought a resolution. It was acknowledged that we discriminated against this child by reason of disability resulting in less than full-time education.

**How is our school responding?**

DPS have proactively reviewed the following:

- Behaviour Policy
- SEN Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- 'SEND and Inclusion Policy' to include making reasonable adjustments and taking proportionate measures for children with neurodevelopment disorders (ASD) and SEND\*
- Complaints Procedure in line with relevant statutory guidance

\*Review in hand

The reviews have been undertaken in conjunction with the LA (Local Authority). As always, the latest documents are held on the school's website and comply with statutory requirements. In addition, DPS are organising additional training for all teachers and support staff on Disability Discrimination and Equal Opportunities.

At DPS we are committed to an ongoing and reflective review of School procedures. Going forward DPS will ensure that a robust stance with the LA is always followed.

**What does this mean for all the other children, parents/carers, staff, and governors in our school?**

The Leadership and Governance, in conjunction with our strong staff team, will remain committed to providing the best outcomes for all of our children according to their needs and abilities with the safety, wellbeing and duty of care for the whole school community paramount. Whilst an LA school we will

continue, as we always have, to seek and follow their advice and that of other external professionals to offer provision according to the individual needs of a child.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to control the timeliness or outcome of some of this external support and from this point, and as part of our review of procedures, we will be seeking ways to extend this further. It is important for parent/carers and staff to know that there has been no suggestion at any time that the care of children at our school is not of the highest standard or that our strong safeguarding procedures have been compromised and indeed. I would like to thank the staff wholeheartedly for their extensive care, professionalism and resilience.

The school leadership and staff are a professional team with considerable experience and expertise which enables them to work with pupils (and their families) who may be displaying many differing needs within a maintained school environment whilst ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all the school community. We are extremely proud of these non-negotiable values, the equality, understanding and richness it brings to our school but acknowledge that, at times, it can prove a difficult balance to achieve when everything is taken into consideration.

We too share the same frustrations as the parents of this child and the LA that the process of finding the best possible solution to meet the needs of this child has been slow, regrettable and not acceptable. We have worked closely with the LA and Parents throughout and genuinely believe that we did everything in our power to deliver the best outcome possible at any given time under the circumstances to meet the needs of the child by working in partnership, with communication channels always open, constantly seeking solutions and following all external advice received.

It is at times such as these that the strength, resilience and commitment of a school community are tested - Deanshanger Primary has a strong sense of community. The Leadership and Governors appreciate the understanding and support given to the school by our Parents and Carers.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss any of the above further, please make an appointment with the School Office to meet with the HT and Chair of Governors; this is consistent with our commitment to open communication wherever possible.

With regards,

Sue Forman (Chair of Governors) and Rachel Rice (Head teacher)

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Please note that at the request of the parents, this letter will be held on the school website for the next 12 months.