

Accessibility Plan

Date: March 2024

Approved by: Resource Committee

Review Period: 2 yearly

Next review due: Spring 2026



Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 replaces previous discrimination law and provides a single piece of legislation covering all the types of discrimination that are unlawful.

Schools and Local Authorities have to carry out accessibility planning for disabled pupils. The duties are the same as those in the previous Disability Discrimination legislation and have been replicated in the new Act.

Our school's accessibility plan is aimed at:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- Improving the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided; and
- Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

Our school recognises the need to provide adequate resources for implementing plans and will regularly review them. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives. We understand that the LA will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

Vision and values

Our School believes that all children and young people have the right to be healthy, happy and safe; to be valued and respected; and to have high aspirations for their future. We also believe that process of taking necessary steps to ensure that every young person is given equality of opportunity to develop socially, to learn and to enjoy community life.

We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to fostering and developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The plan

The school's Accessibility Plan seeks to address the three key areas of improving access to:

- The physical environment.
- The curriculum; and
- Information usually provided in written form.

Improving access to the **physical environment** will include the provision of:

- Suitable physical access for children, young people and adults to the school buildings and environment and aiming to address barriers to access.
- A medical room on each site to meet the medical needs of pupils.
- Suitable facilities to enable the care needs of children and young people with disabilities to be met.
- Specialist equipment to support the sensory needs of children and young people.
- Clear evacuation procedures which are clearly visible to all.

Improving access to the **curriculum** will include:

- Providing a curriculum that is accessible and relevant to the needs of each individual pupil through a range of activities, technologies and opportunities which ensure that learning is relevant, challenging and fun.

- Using whatever specialist techniques, teaching approaches and equipment which may motivate, support the needs, or improve access of any individual pupil.
- Creating a total communication environment that features signs, symbols, tactile and object clues as required by individual need.
- Ensuring that staff training on teaching and learning and curriculum development includes how to enable access to learning for all our pupils.

Improving access to **information usually provided in written form** will include:

- Ensuring that communication with parents, carers and other stakeholders is accessible to all. This may include the use of phone calls, letters, hand-outs, text message, email and the school's website.
- Providing information about the school via written and electronic means.
- Investigating the use of symbol software to support learners with reading difficulties.
- Raising awareness of font size and page layouts will support pupils with visual impairments.
- Ensuring signage around the school is accessible to all.

Related Policy documents:

- Behaviour Policy
- CPD Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Medication and First Aid Policy
- School Development Plan
- Single Equality Scheme
- Special Educational Needs Policy