



Tweedmouth Community Middle School

School Accessibility Plan

2014-17

## **Introduction**

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
- to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary.

## **Vision and Values**

Tweedmouth Community Middle School is committed to ensuring equal opportunity for all pupils and is an inclusive school.

- All pupils have a right not to be discriminated against.
- Pupils with a disability will have the same access to services and opportunities as nondisabled pupils.
- Their skills, experience and contribution will be valued and given equal recognition and respect.
- Services and opportunities for all pupils will promote and support building independence. These will be child centred working towards the individuals own targets.

## **Range of policy**

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum, TCMS will:

- Provide equal access to the school curriculum for all pupils.
- Liaise with NCC, SEN and Health colleagues to secure the correct equipment is made available for pupils with a disability.
- Ensure pupils receive the necessary support to enable them to participate fully.
- Ensure staff have access to training to enable them to support pupils successfully.

## **Improving the physical environment**

In order to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services at Tweedmouth Community Middle School, we have introduced adaptations to the physical environment to improve access by pupils with a disability:

- staff availability to assist pupils to enter/exit and make their way around school
- Disabled toilet in the main school building
- Access to shower facility in school house

- Wheelchair ramps to assist with entry into school
- Wheelchair ramps to assist in access to specific classrooms
- Computer facilities set up as alternative to computer suite

As a school we consider each individual pupil's needs and adapt as necessary. Future pupils studying in first schools are highlighted at transfer reviews and transitions, and then necessary changes implemented. All advice given by NCC, SEN and other agencies is followed.

### **Improving lesson delivery**

Tweedmouth Community Middle School adopts a number of different strategies to ensure pupils have access to all information. These include/have included:

- Use of appropriate coloured pens on whiteboards
- Large print versions when required
- Use of different coloured paper
- Use of readers
- Use of reading aids
- Use of FM radio for hearing impaired pupils
- Translations of material/information where possible
- Use of Google Translate

All advice given by NCC, SEN and other agencies is followed.

### **Management, coordination and implementation**

Tweedmouth Community Middle School liaises closely with feeder first schools and NCC SEN staff to identify pupils with disabilities well before entry. Transition reviews take place at least 12 months before entry so that all adaptations and equipment needs can be identified and organised. For pupils arriving from other schools, similar liaison will take place although advance adjustments may not be possible due to timescale of transfer, any requirements will be actioned as soon as is possible. We will monitor all pupils carefully through the SENDCo and Year Leaders, together with NCC, SEN and Health agencies. Pupils, parents and carers will be consulted on a regular basis and suggested improvements considered and implemented.

The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure all transition pupil's needs have been assessed and facilitated. The Tweedmouth Community Middle School Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website and will also be available on request through the school office. The 3-year period covered by the plan is 2015 - 2018

Date agreed by Governing Body	September 2015
Date of review	December 2017
Reviewed by	Mr. B. Hulbert Headteacher
Approved by Governing Body	