



Tweedmouth West First School

Respect Responsibility Resilience

Accessibility Plan 2017 - 2020

Date adopted: October 2017

Introduction:

The purpose of this plan is to show how Tweedmouth West First School intends over time to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors.

Legal Background

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act.

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

You can read more about substantial and long term effects [here](#).

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and these are also published on the school website.

Objectives

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as any other pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equality

Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits. It also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;

- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

Contextual Information

Tweedmouth West First School is in a building which is over 100 years of age. The building is all on one level. The building is in a generally good state of repair and accessibility is good. There are inevitable repair and maintenance issues connected with the age of the premises. Generally, access around the building is good, with wide corridors and spacious classrooms.

Current Disabilities (2017)

The school has children with a wide range of disabilities, to include:

- moderate and specific learning difficulties,
- communication difficulties,
- children who have Epipens for allergic reactions,
- physical developmental disorders,
- behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- Diabetes

Appropriate training has been provided for staff and all First Aid certificates are kept up to date

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a table of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- The Governing Body
- Head Teacher

- SENDCO
- Schools' Equalities Coordinator from Northumberland County Council

We welcome and will consider any suggestions and practical improvements that are suggested to us by disabled service users and their families.

An accessibility audit of the school was completed by the senior teachers and Schools' Equalities Coordinator on 23rd October 2017. The refreshed action plans that follow show how the school will address the priorities identified and resource any changes that need to be implemented.

Increasing access to the curriculum for disabled pupils

Improving teaching and learning lies at the heart of the school's work. Through self-review and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), we aim to enhance staff knowledge, skills and understanding to promote excellent teaching and learning for all children.

Target	Strategy	Timescale and responsibility	Success criteria
Increase the range of strategies staff use to make the curriculum accessible to all children.	Establish and fulfil staff CPD needs. Ensure staff and governors are aware of and undertake the free EHRC/John Moore's online training Unlocking Opportunities	SENDCO Ongoing and as required	Raised staff confidence and strategies being deployed. Pupil participation visible. Achievement gaps diminish
Ensure that all staff are aware of the needs of individual disabled children when accessing the curriculum	Maintain Individual Access Plans and share information with other agencies involved with the child. Ensure that assessment always outlines 'next learning steps'	SENDCO ongoing	Information sharing supports staff to create the best inclusive environment for every disabled child
All educational visits to be accessible to all	Assess every potential venue and transport	HT, Teachers Anticipatory, in advance of any	Participation of all pupils in a wide range of activities

pupils	provider for accessibility before agreeing a visit to be viable.	visits	and visits. No child excluded on the basis of disability.
Ensure that all staff have access to and awareness of the range of services available to support children and young people.	Ensure that local directories are accessible to all staff and that we make the most of all of the support and assistance available to help children to succeed and make progress.	Head Teacher SENDCO From Autumn 2017	Improved access to prompt, specialist support for children and their families
Ensure that all children with medical conditions are well supported within school, so that they can access the curriculum and enjoy learning	Ensure that all staff and governors are familiar with and follow the statutory guidance (updated September 2017) and the SEND Code of Practice	Head Teacher SENDCO From Autumn 2017	The principles of the guidance are evident in practice
Ensure that we provide sufficient challenge in the curriculum for our most able disabled pupils	The curriculum and lesson planning demonstrate differentiation to stretch the most able children	All teaching staff Depending on children's individual needs	Children with disabilities achieve or exceed their academic potential

Improving access to the physical environment of the school

Our site is extensive both inside and out. We place a great deal of value upon outdoor learning and Forest School principles. It remains a priority to continue to improve the physical environment of the school to increase the opportunities disabled users and visitors may take advantage of the facilities we have, both indoors and outdoors. We have a wide range of equipment and resources available for day to day use. We keep resource provision under constant review. The school's improvement planning process is the vehicle for considering such needs on an annual basis.

Target	Strategy	Timescale and responsibility	Success criteria
To meet the physical needs of each individual child with a disability or medical need and optimise the learning environment for every child	Carry out assessments within classrooms and learning environments to ensure that the physical environment is adapted to meet the needs of the children with disabilities who we have in each year group	Annually or as a disability is diagnosed. SENDCO All staff	Adaptations are in place in anticipation of a child's arrival in school (if we are made aware of a disability). Every pupil makes the best progress possible in an environment adapted to their needs
Ensure that fixtures and fittings in the school are visible, reachable and accessible to wheelchair users and other people with disabilities	Continuously audit the school, and wherever possible, make the adjustments as we notice the need for them and can budget to address them.	Ongoing SENDCO	Pupils with physical disabilities are able to access rooms and facilities on an equal basis to their peers

Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils

This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. Examples might include handouts, textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable timeframe. The school will continuously develop awareness of agencies and sources of materials to be able to make information more accessible as required.

Target	Strategy	Timescale and responsibility	Success criteria
<p>Increase accessibility to the school for parents or pupils with speech or hearing impairments by including details of the text relay service on the school web site</p>	<p>Include instructions on the 'Contact us' page of the web site: 'If you have a speech or hearing impairment you can contact us by dialling 018001 01289 306151'</p> <p>To return a call using the relay service staff will dial 018002 and the area code and number of person we wanted to contact. Train school reception staff to understand how the relay service works</p>	<p>Office manager/SENDCO Autumn term 2017</p>	<p>People with speech or hearing impairments contact school using the relay service</p>
<p>Availability of written material in alternative formats when specifically requested</p>	<p>The school will continuously develop skills and awareness of the standards and services which can be used. (For example, sharing audio files, using pictograms and graphics to aid understanding)</p>	<p>All staff As required</p>	<p>Staff will be aware of web based and physical resources and organisations that can provide information in different languages and formats, including people who can sign.</p>
<p>Use best practice and guidance in making printed documentation accessible to children (see Appendix 1)</p>	<p>Ensure that all staff have access to the resources listed below</p>	<p>All staff From October 2017</p>	<p>The accessibility best practice guidance is visible in all of the printed curriculum material we share with children</p>

Appendix 1:

Making printed information accessible.

Resources and guidance:

[Accessible Communication Formats](#) (Government guidance)

[Producing accessible materials for print or online](#) (Abilitynet)

[Creating clear print and large print documents](#) (UK Association for Accessible Formats)

[The Sensory Trust information sheet on clear and large print](#)

[Am I making myself clear?](#) (Mencap's guidelines for accessible writing)

[Dyslexia Style Guide](#) (British Dyslexia Association)