



Accessibility Plan 2018-2021

Benfield School Accessibility Plan – 2017 - 2021

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- Physical Environment
- Curriculum
- Information

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1. Vision Statement:

This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the SEND Information Report, the SEND Policy and Annual SEND Report. Together they include details of:

- The schools admission arrangements for Students with SEN or Disabilities
- The steps the school have taken to prevent Students with SEN or Disabilities from being treated less favorably than other Students.
- The facilities provided to assist access to the school by Students with SEN or Disabilities.

Under Schedule 10 of The Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against Students because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. 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.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At Benfield School the Plan will form part of the Premises, Resources, Fund-Raising and Marketing section of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors’ committee. The current Action Plan covering the period of 2014 to 2017 is in section 6 of this document .

At Benfield School we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all Students can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that all Students should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other. We are a fully inclusive school that has specialist provisions for physically disabled Students and those with social communication difficulties

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s SEN, Disability and Inclusion Policies, which are published on the school’s website as part of the schools SEND offer. We understand that the Local Authority 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.

Benfield School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all Students, 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 developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The Benfield School Accessibility Plan demonstrates the access for disabled Students, staff and visitors to the school and acknowledges the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- ensure access to the curriculum for Students with a disability, expanding the **curriculum** as necessary to ensure that Students with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied Students; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities 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 Students in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe
- ensure 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 Students, 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.

The Benfield School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Asset Management Plan
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Critical Incident Support Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality Plan
- School Prospectus
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy/ school SEND offer
- Staff Development Policy

The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior

to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Premises Committee

The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Approved _____

Date _____

2. Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

- ensure access to the curriculum for Students with a disability
- ensure and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to Students

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

3. Current good practice

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of Students already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening. We also encourage an 'open door' policy for parents in that they are invited to make an appointment to speak with relevant staff including the SENCO at any time.

The school also has an ARC and an ARP which hold regular panel meetings (termly) to discuss students with disabilities which who may be admitted to the school in the future.

Physical Environment

Disabled Students can access all areas of the school. The outside recreation space has tarmacked paths to allow wheelchair access. We have lift access to all floors and plans in place to support any emergency arrangements such as our fire evacuation plan. For students with medical or physical needs we have a suite of facilities to support these arrangements such as our disabled toilet and washing facilities a physiotherapy room and medical examination/ dispensary room with a locked medical cabinet.

We also have state of the art sports facilities with access to a Swimming Pool, Gymnasium including Trampolines, AstroTurf and Main Sports Hall all available at ground level with specialist disability access routes.

Curriculum

There is no area of the curriculum to which disabled Students have limited or no access, although some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges. Where these challenges can be reasonably anticipated the school has or intends to put in place through the implementation of this plan arrangements to ensure that challenges do not prevent students from accessing our curriculum.

When or if unanticipated problems arise where solutions would benefit all students or future provision this will be recorded and fed into the plan within the three year period or future audits.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled Students to express their views and to hear the views of others. All students who are recognised by

the school through the SEND register, as having a medium to high level of need will have a keyworker who will work as an advocate of their views and needs.

Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled Students, parents and staff. For example students within our ARPs and ARC will have a detailed care provision plan available to staff and parents upon request. All students with SEND Statements, Educational Health Care Plans or School Support Plus will have a Learning Passport that is shared with students, staff and parents.

We share information in accordance with the principals of the data protection act and would not necessarily share all details of a student's disability if it were not relevant or proper to do so. We would also ask the permission of both parents and students where applicable to share any information.

4. Access Audit

The school is a three-storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. There is a lift which can accommodate large wheelchairs which is maintained on a regular basis through a service agreement. Training is reviewed annually.

On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes dedicated disabled parking bays. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby and has been fitted with a low reception hatch, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities available to Students, staff and visitors.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked, this includes refuge areas for wheelchair users and three Stairmate evacuation ramps. The lift is also fire-proofed.

5. Management, coordination and implementation

- We will consult with experts when new situations regarding Students with disabilities are experienced.
- The Governors and Senior Leadership Team and SENCO will work closely with the Local Authority

