

# Newton Hill Community School



## Access Policy

Date of Policy: November 2014

Date of Review: November 2017\*

\*or as appropriate in relation to new legislation.

Written by: SEND Coordinator in consultation with Headteacher.

## Aim

It is the overall aim of Newton Hill Community School to do all that is reasonably possible to ensure that the school's facilities, services, culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to pupils, staff members and visitors who have disabilities and to comply with our moral and legal responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) which states:

- Not to treat pupils who are disabled less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- To make reasonable adjustments for pupils who are disabled, so they are not put at a substantial disadvantage;
- To draw up plans to show how, over time, we will increase access to education for pupils who are disabled.

In the Act a person has a disability if:

- They have a physical impairment;
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.

For the purposes of the Act, these words have the following meanings:

- 'substantial' means more than minor or trivial
- 'long-term' means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least twelve months (there are special rules covering recurring or fluctuating conditions)
- 'normal day-to-day activities' include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping, but not work related items.

## Accessibility Action Plan Rationale

In July 2014 the school undertook a site 'Access Audit' by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. The findings of the report were used to inform future planning for accessibility improvements. The action plan is split into two main areas: 'Public' and 'Private'. The 'Public Plan' is a proactive plan to be put in place in order meet the requirements of the Equality Act. The 'Private Plan' is a reactive plan that would be put into action upon a member of staff/pupil attending the school or developing an impairment. In addition, when any construction work is undertaken in school this will reflect actions in the plan. No work carried out will fall short of current legislation at the current time.

## Accessibility Action Plan

2014-2015

### Public Areas

Objectives	Day to Day Work	Planned Work (inc. timescales)	Additional Notes	Review
To ensure approach routes to the school are wide enough.			The main route into school is unable to be widened as there is a necessity for the safety fencing to be present in order to ensure the safeguarding of children and adults in school.	
To add an additional hand rail to the Main Entrance access ramp.		WMDC to be contacted. (Nov 2014)	There is a handrail on one side only.	
To have visual and tactile warnings at the top and bottom of the steps at the Main Entrance.				
To ensure entry phones and security key pad are accessible by people with sensory or mobility impairments.		July 2015	The existing entry system needs to be lowered and more easily identifiable.	
To add an additional desk within reception to provide suitable use for people who are seated.		Fold down desk to be added. (Feb 2015)		
To fit an induction loop within the reception area.		May 2015		

To ensure waiting area seating has arms to aid people in raising and lowering themselves.		Seating to be reduced to allow for wheelchair access. Seats to be replaced for seats with arms. (July 2015)		
Remove seating from the lobby area	Seating to be removed to allow more manoeuvrable space within the lobby.			Completed Oct 2014
To adapt toilet area to ensure ambulant disabled people room to manoeuvre.		Re- hang cubical doors to open out and provide handrails to aid raising and lowering onto the WC.		
Disabled toilet doors to be re-hung to open outwards to allow space for manoeuvring into position for frontal, lateral, angled and backward transfer unassisted and with assistance.		Re-hang cubical doors to open outwards.		
To purchase a portable induction loop for interview rooms.		May 2015		

**Private Areas-** To be addressed if a staff member or pupil starts to attend the school or an existing user becomes impaired or as work is undertaken to improve the building.

Objectives	Day to Day Work	Planned Work (inc. timescales)	Additional Notes	Review
To provide a disabled car parking space.		WMDC Contacted to carry out the work asap.		
To ensure corridors are free from obstructions to wheelchairs users and from hazards to people with impaired sight.	Corridors to be cleared of furniture and placed elsewhere.		Corridors have been cleared of any unnecessary furniture and all tables for intervention work are against the left hand wall.	
To have visual and tactile warnings at the top and bottom of the steps and nosing around school. Ramps to be created to stepped entrance and exits.				
Double doors to be replaced with a wide door and a narrow door to allow ease of use for wheelchair users.				
High Level 'Security' handles to be replaced with lower handles.				
Staff/ Pupil toilets would require adaptations specific to the needs of the impaired person.				
Electrical equipment to be a contrasting colour to the		Coloured borders to be added around light		

background to aid people with visual impairments.		switches in order to give contrast for people with visual impairment. (Jan 2015)		
Light Switches would be required to be lowered to allow use by wheelchair users.				