

Newton-le-Willows Primary School & Nursery



Accessibility Policy 2022-2025

Status:	STATUTORY		
Responsible Person/People:	Mrs Chisnall Mr. Brown, Mr. Ibbotson Miss Mercer School Staff.		
Responsible Governor:	Mrs Charleston		
Approved by:	Mr. Limb	Signature: <i>Gary Limb</i>	Date: Spring 2023
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Next review:	Spring 2024		

Introduction

Schools and Local Authorities need to carry out accessibility planning for disabled pupils. These are the same duties as previously existed under the Disability Discrimination Act and have been replicated in the Equality Act 2010. Part 5A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) requires the Governing Body to:

- promote equality of opportunity for disabled people: pupils, staff, parents, carers and other people who use the school or may wish to; and
- prepare and publish a Disability Equality Scheme to show how they will meet these duties.

This **Accessibility Plan** and the accompanying action plan forms part of the schools **Equality Policy & Action Plan** and sets out how the Governing Body will improve equality opportunity for disabled people. The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the DDA to cover education, so since 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 reasons related to their disability
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage including potential adjustments which may be needed in the future.
- 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. This plan incorporates the school's intention to increase access to education for disabled pupils. Newton-le-Willows Primary School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs by:

- 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 and reviewed and revised as necessary.

The Accessibility Plan shows how the school will address priorities identified in the plan. In drawing up the **Accessibility Plan** the school has set the following priorities:

- To improve physical access
- To improve curriculum access

At Newton-le-Willows Primary School, we are committed to establishing equality for all pupils, their parents, staff and other users of the school. This is reflected in our School Motto which states that our school will '***Nurture the Potential to Succeed***'

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to implement this in a manner that promotes the inclusive ethos of our school.

The Involvement of Disabled Children and Young People, Staff, Parents and Carers.

The Accessibility Plan has been informed by analysis of pupil & staff data; completion of an access audit and additional information gathered.

According to the Act a “disabled person is defined as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. The effect must be substantial, long term and adverse. The DDA definition of disability covers physical disabilities, sensory impairments and learning disabilities.

We are committed to equal opportunities and inclusion. This strategy should be considered alongside the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Equality Policy and Action Plan
- Health and Safety Policy
- SEN/D Policy
- Asset Management Plan
- School Improvement Plan

Newton-le-Willows Primary School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their need through:

- **Increasing access to the curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. (If 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 of school's 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.
- **Improving and maintaining access to the physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvement to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe
- **Improving the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors** with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats.

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum

The school SEND Policy ensures that staff identify, assess and arrange suitable provision for pupils with disabilities and special educational needs. Working with the Local Authority and Additional Needs Service, the SENCo manages the Statutory Assessment Process, ensuring additional resources are available where appropriate.

The School's Team Around the Child (TAC) team provides additional support for pupils and supports teachers in implementing strategies for improving pupils' behaviour and access to learning.

The school works closely with specialist services including:

- Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists
- Visual Stress Team
- Learning Support Service
- Hearing and Visual Impairment Team
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Behaviour Improvement Team
- The Bridge Centre
- Lansbury Bridge
- LASC
- EAL service
- CAMHS
- Barnardo's
- Phillipi Trust
- Educational Psychologist
- Youth Service
- Families First

Improving access to the physical environment of the school

This element of the Planning Duty covers all areas of the physical environment such as external areas, buildings and fixtures and fittings.

The aim is to continue to enhance the environment to meet the needs of all pupils and ensure that they have access to all aspects of education offered by our school.

Improving the delivery of information to disabled persons

Staff are aware of the services available for converting written information into alternative formats.

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

Newton-le-Willows Primary School is committed to the principle of equality for all pupils irrespective of race, religion, gender, language, disability or family background, and to the active support of initiatives designed to further this principle. We believe that equality is at the heart of good educational practice. All pupils are of equal value and deserve equal access to every aspect of school life. They have equality to learn and work towards their highest possible levels of achievement. The vision and values which we uphold as a school help to emphasise equality for all staff, pupils, parent/carers and visitors at all times. All personnel are responsible for ensuring that we implement this policy.

Equality means that discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexuality, language, disability or family background is not acceptable.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all Governor's 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 school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

The Plan will be monitored as part of the school's Governing Body meetings.

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