

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Version	Date
Last reviewed	September 2021
Next reviewed	September 2022
Owner	SENCO - Mrs J. Hall
Approver	Academy Council

1. Introduction

At Airedale Junior School we believe in supporting pupils to help them achieve their very best academically, socially and personally whilst also preparing them for life beyond education. Our ambition is to see pupils discover, aim for and achieve their dreams, with all members of the school community striving to “Ambition, Bravery, Respect”.

This Accessibility Plan seeks to address the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and to further the aims of our School by continuing to improve the physical environment of the School and other resources so that all disabled pupils (whether their disability is temporary or permanent) can take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by the School and that the School can support staff who have or develop a disability to fulfil their duties as an employee.

“A person suffers a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities”

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight or hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long term and substantial effect on an individual’s everyday life.

This plan covers all three main strands of the planning duty:

- Improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and associated services, parents with disabilities can be fully involved in their child’s education, and staff with disabilities are supported to fulfil their duties.
- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.
- Improving the delivery of information to pupils, staff and parents with disabilities.

2. Context

2.1 Physical environment

Airedale Junior School is a predominantly pre-1950s traditional construction building with one post-2000 portable building addition. The site is at ground floor level and so has no staircases and no requirement for lifts of any kind.

All ground floor classrooms, social spaces and offices can now be accessed via ramps or level access. A disabled toilet facility is provided. Fire alarm systems have visual indicators in the form of strobe lights – Do they have strobe lights?

2.2 Access to curriculum

The curriculum is carefully designed to meet the needs of learners so that all can access a broad and balanced curriculum. Individual needs are identified and the curriculum is differentiated and adapted as appropriate. Pupils are supported in their choices where choices are available and every effort is made

to ensure that no pupil is prevented by their disability from accessing learning opportunities which are appropriate to their needs. Where subjects require specialist equipment or facilities, these are adapted as far as practicable to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not prevented from participating, given cost and time constraints.

2.3 Access to information

Staff, pupils and visitors are asked to alert the School if they require information in an alternative format.

2.4 Recent developments

- Refurbishment of classrooms to include improved light levels.
- Ongoing lighting improvements to corridors.

3. Strategy

Airedale Junior School aims over time to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors including those with disabilities.

Our strategies to do this will include:

- having high expectations of all pupils;
- finding ways in which all pupils can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music and extra-curricular activities;
- planning out of school activities so that pupils and staff with disabilities can participate as fully as possible;
- setting admission criteria which does not discriminate against pupils with disabilities or treat them unfairly;
- devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for pupils with disabilities;
- planning the improvement and the modification of the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of pupils, staff and visitors with disabilities;
- raising awareness of disability amongst all members of the school community;
- providing information for pupils and staff with disabilities in a form which meets the needs of the user;
- using language which does not offend in all literature and making staff and pupils aware of the importance of language.

4. Principles of the Accessibility Plan

The general principal underpinning this plan is that we will make such changes as are practicable to meet the foreseeable needs of our current and future school population (balancing this against cost considerations), but that our priorities and plans may change to accommodate the changing needs of individuals or notification to the School of a pupil/member of staff/parent due to join our community who has specific requirements.

4.1 Meeting individual needs

The School will endeavour to meet the needs of any individual pupil or member of staff who requires special adaptation to normal routines, procedures or facilities in order to participate in the life of the School, as far as is reasonably practicable.

Relevant modifications to delivery of the curriculum are negotiated on an individual basis as required. The School actively seeks the support and advice of relevant services or organisations to ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all pupils. In the case of pupils due to be admitted to the School, discussion about any necessary adaptations will take place between the Headteacher and the pupil's parents prior to admission (with involvement of the SENCo as appropriate). For pupils already registered at the School,

discussions will take place with the SENCo. In the case of staff, discussion will take place with the HR Manager or HR Officer.

4.2 Redevelopment or refurbishment

When areas of the School are being redeveloped or refurbished, consideration will be given at an early stage to measures which could be incorporated which will improve access to the facilities or provision offered by the School. This may include:

- Ensuring that specialist facilities are accessible for mobility impaired users where practicable through the provision of specific equipment or adapted areas;
- Making all relevant switches, alarm buttons and door handles at wheelchair height;
- Provision of ramps where none already exist to facilitate ease of movement between areas of the School.

In all these cases, however, a balance will need to be struck between the cost of such measures and their likely degree of use.

5. Accessibility Action Plan

As part of the Accessibility Plan our aims and objectives are as follows:

A – Improve physical access

1. Improve circulation around the school site for disabled pupils, staff and visitors
2. Ensure that areas where services are provided to the public take into account the needs of people with disabilities
3. Ensure that any new or refurbished specialist facilities are designed to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities

B – Improve curriculum access

1. Ensure that no pupil is prevented by their disability from engaging in a qualification which is suitable for them
2. Ensure that as many pupils as possible can access the full range of extra-curricular provision (including trips and visits)

C – Improve the delivery of information

1. Ensure that staff, pupils and parents are communicated with in a way that meets their needs

The details of how these objectives will be achieved are incorporated into the Accessibility Action Plan, included at Annex 1.

Improve Physical Access

Environment/Provision	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Lead
Corridor	Keep corridors clear from obstructions.	Immediate	High	None	All staff
Disabled Toilet	Consider additional disabled toilets if further toilet provision is added	Ongoing	Low	None To seek up-to-date cost if toilet provision is reviewed	Premises staff Business Manager
Changing and Shower facilities	Consider need for disabled-accessible shower facilities if changing areas are refurbished	Ongoing	Low	To seek up-to-date cost if changing facilities are refurbished	Business Manager
Doors	Investigate feasibility of installing powered opener to main reception door	Spring Term 2017/18	Medium	TBC Is this the second door?	Business Manager

Improve Curriculum Access

Provision	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Lead
Differentiation in teaching	SLT to monitor quality of differentiation and provision for SEND pupils.	Ongoing	High	Time	Assistant Head
Interventions	SENCo to audit current interventions and their success/impact on progress for SEN pupils	Ongoing	High	Time	SENCo
Range of curriculum options	Audit the barriers and potential barriers to pupils with disabilities engaging in the various programmes offered, with a view to developing strategies for ensuring all pupils can participate in suitable courses	Ongoing	High	Time	Assistant Head/Senco
Testing and examination adjustments	Assess access arrangements for Statutory assessments at the end of Year 6 are applied for in line with the DFE requirements. Parents, Carers and children are involved fully in this	Autumn Term – Spring 1	High	Time/additional salary costs	Assistant Head/SENCo

Provision	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Lead
	process. This might include provision for enlarged text, additional time, comfort breaks, a scribe or a reader.				
Training for staff on SEND	Deliver staff training in supporting pupils with SEND – focus on key areas of need within the school.	Ongoing	Medium	Cost of trainer if external	SENCo
Alternative curriculum options	Identify subjects where the participation of disabled pupils cannot be accommodated in the short to medium term, and identify suitable alternative provision.	Autumn Term 2021/22	Medium	Time	Headteacher
Access to trips and visits	Ensure that staff leading trips and visits have considered how pupils with disabilities could be enabled to participate	Autumn Term 2021/22	Medium	Time	Deputy/Assistant Head/SENCo
Access to extra-curricular activities	Audit the barriers and potential barriers to pupils with disabilities engaging in the various extra-curricular opportunities offered, with a view to developing strategies for ensuring all	Autumn Term 2021/22	Medium	Time	SENCo

Provision	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Lead
	pupils who wish to can participate				

Improve the Delivery of Information

Provision	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Lead
Accessibility of information on website	Ensure that a message about the School being prepared to provide information in alternative formats is incorporated into all new publications and on the website	Ongoing	Medium	Not applicable	Business Manager
Information for staff	Include a question during induction about whether staff have a disability which means they would benefit	Ongoing	High	Not applicable	HR Manager

	from information being provided in a different format				
Information for parents	Ask parents at admission whether they need information about their child or messages from the school provided in a particular format (e.g. written, audio, large print) and record this on SIMS	Summer Term 2020/21	High	May be cost in converting information	Business Manager/Office staff