



Deaf Hill Primary and Nursery School
Accessibility Plan
2023-2024

Headteacher: Mr Paul Newton

Chair of Governors: Mrs Carol Ayre

Accessibility Plan

Deaf Hill Primary Accessibility Plan – 2023 to 2024

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1. Vision Statement

Under 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 pupils 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. The Plan will form part of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the head teacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors’ committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

We are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

Our Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date.

1) The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. 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.

2) Deaf Hill Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, 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.

3) Our 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 where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase 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 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 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.

4) Our School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

5) 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.

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

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Prospectus
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy

7) 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.

8) 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.

9) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

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

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

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

Date: March 2023

Approved by Governors: March 2023

2. Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

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

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 children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of our ongoing discussions and we have an open and genuine relationship with our parents.

Physical Environment

Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical needs. The staff room is the only part of the building children or adults with physical impairments cannot access.

Curriculum

There are few areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Other issues affect the participation of disabled pupils, for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten. We have a Speech and Language Therapist who works with children regularly. Inclusion is at the heart of our practice.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others if required.

4. Access Audit

The school is a predominantly one storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. The hall is on the ground floor and is accessible to all. On-site car parking for staff and visitor is all close to the main building. Most entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby. There are disabled toilet facilities available in school, these are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

5. Management, coordination and implementation

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

6. Action Plan

Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	To liaise with parents to review potential intake for Sept 23.	To identify pupils who may need additional to or different from provision for Sept 20 intake.	Sept 2023	HT EYFS Lead	Procedures/equipment /ideas set in place by Sept 2020.
	To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure.	To comply with the Equality Act 2010.	Ongoing 2023/24	HT All subject leaders	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure.
	To establish a more formal data collection for parental need.	To ensure collaboration and sharing between school and families so that parents can be appropriately provided for.	Ongoing 2023/24	HT All Teachers	Clear collaborative working approach.
	To ensure full access to the curriculum for all children.	Outside Play visits; Employment of specialist advisory teachers; CPD for staff and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A differentiated curriculum with alternatives offered. • The use of P levels to assist in developing learning opportunities for children and also in assessing progress in different subjects • A range of support staff including trained teaching assistants • Multimedia activities to support most curriculum areas. • Use of interactive ICT equipment - specific equipment sourced from occupational therapy 	Ongoing	Teachers SENDco	Advice taken and strategies evident in classroom practice.
M	Tasks/Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria

	To finely review attainment and progress of all SEND pupils against new curriculum expectations. Define good progress.	SENDco/Class teacher meetings/Pupil progress	Termly	Class teachers SENDco	Progress made towards IEP targets. Provision mapping shows clear steps and progress made.
	To monitor attainment of Able, G & T pupils	Policy and Able G&T list to be updated Able G&T booster groups/activities Monitor Able G&T list	Ongoing	G&T coordinator Class teachers	G&T children making proportionate progress.
	To promote the involvement of disabled students in classroom discussions/activities To take account of variety of learning styles when teaching	Within the Curriculum, the school aims to provide full access to all aspects of the curriculum by providing (where appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair access • Giving alternatives to enable disabled pupils to participate successfully in lessons • Creating positive images of disability within the school so that pupils grow into adults who have some understanding of the needs of disabled people. 	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Variety of learning styles evident in planning and in the classrooms. Ensuring that the needs of all disabled pupils, parents and staff are represented within the school.
LONG TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
	To evaluate and review the above short and long term targets annually	See above	Annually	SMT, Core curriculum coordinators Governors	All children making good progress.
	To deliver findings to the Governing Body	Finance and Premises Governors meetings	Annually Termly	SMT/SENDco Governor	Governors fully informed about SENDprovision and progress

Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
Improve physical environment of school environment.	The school will take account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SMT	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
Ensure visually stimulating environment for all children	Colourful, lively displays in classrooms and inviting role play areas.	Ongoing	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Lively and inviting environment maintained.
Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of IEP process • Include questions in the confidential pupil information questionnaire about parents/carers' access needs 	Ongoing	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent interviews, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual protocols where needed.	Ongoing	Headteacher Office Manager	
Ensuring disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange interpreters from the RNID to communicate with deaf parents if required • Offer a telephone call to explain letters home for some parents who need this • Adopt a more 	Ongoing	Headteacher All staff	To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education

		proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents			
MEDIUM TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
	To improve community links to enable greater support of children and adults with disabilities.	School to continue to have strong links with schools and other agencies in Durham Authority and the wider community.	Ongoing	SMT All staff	Improved awareness of disabilities and opportunities in the wider community of Durham.
LONG TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
	Continue to develop playgrounds and facilities which could be suitable for all.	Look for funding opportunities.	Ongoing	Headteacher	Inclusive child-friendly play areas.
	To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe an accessible as possible.	Communication with parents via safety messages /letters/walk to school week etc.	Ongoing	Headteacher	School is accessible and accident incidents are low.

Aim 3: To improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils and parents.

SHORT TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
	To ensure all children have access to the whole curriculum	Regular parental communication Individualised multi-sensory teaching strategies used for SEND children.	Ongoing	All staff to be aware.	SEND children able to access curriculum.
SHORT TERM	To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of font size and page layouts will support pupils with visual impairments. • Being aware of suppliers of large font books if ever required • Auditing signage around the school to ensure that is accessible to all 	Ongoing	All staff to be aware.	Written communication is readily accessible.
	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
ME	To review children's records	Information is collected	Annually	Class	Each teacher/staff

	ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities.	<p>about new children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records passed up to each class teacher to read – not just YR • Teacher/staff member aware of disabilities of children in their classes • Annual reviews • Support Plan meetings • Medical forms updated annually for all children • Personal health plans • Significant health problems – children's photos displayed on staffroom notice board / info kept in separate file in staffroom 		teachers SMT Office staff	member aware of disabilities of children in their classes.
LONG TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
	In school record system to be reviewed and improved where necessary.	Record keeping system to be reviewed.	Continual review and improvement.	SMT Office manager	Effective communication of information about disabilities throughout school.