

Durham Gilesgate Primary School

Accessibility Plan Statement of Intent

Rationale

Under the Equality Act 2010, all 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 of 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 Teacher. At Durham Gilesgate Primary School the Plan will be monitored by the Head Teacher and evaluated by the Pupil Welfare Committee.

At Durham Gilesgate Primary School, 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.

- The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority and through consultation with other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. 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.
- 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.
- Durham Gilesgate 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 school.
- The 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:

1. 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. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school 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.
2. 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.
3. Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hands 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 Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of the physical environment, curriculum and written information.

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

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 the 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.

Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

- To increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- To improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- To improve the delivery of written information to pupils

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 a survey or parents' views, or in conjunction with our termly Parents' Evenings.

Physical environment

Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities can present particular challenges, but we have always managed to overcome barriers and make adaptations to enable all children with disabilities attend extra-curricular activities. There are no parts of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment.

Curriculum

There are areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited access. For example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, and some curriculum content for pupils with learning

difficulties. However, we always differentiate and adapt the curriculum to ensure full inclusion, even if children are learning at a different level of attainment to their peers.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff. In particular we provide signers for communication with our deaf children and any deaf parents, we have digital radio aids and use signed supported English as a communication tool throughout the school.

Access Audit

The school is a single storey building with corridors of varying width and three access points from outside. The hall and dining area are accessible to all. On-site car parking for staff and visitors includes a dedicated disabled parking bay, and there are plans to refurbish school parking in light of after school lettings for recently acquired sports grounds. Entrances into the main school reception, EYFS and the Community use are either flat or via ramps. All of these doors are wide. The main reception features a secure lobby with a low reception hatch which is fully accessible to wheelchair users. Access into the school can only be gained from inside the main reception or via staff key fobs. Disabled toilet facilities are available in EYFS, the main school staff corridor and in Key Stage 2.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Our current Access Audit has revealed a number of issues:

- The entrance from the playground to Key Stage 2 is via a step and this will require a ramp if and when the need arises.
- The Main school doors will need to be replaced within the life of the plan for those which are automatic with controls suitable for the disabled.

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 to overcome any difficulties that may arise.

This version of the Accessibility Audit replaces previous versions, it should be read alongside the accessibility action plan.