



# Accessibility Policy

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Northwood Primary School  
Accessibility Plan – 2023 to 2026

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1. Vision Statement:

At Northwood Primary School we endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to reduce and eliminate barriers that impair access to the curriculum, thus enabling everyone to participate in the life of the school community, including pupils, staff and visitors with a disability. The school aims to work closely with disabled pupils, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to allow them to learn, achieve and participate fully in school life. The school is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in the school and in planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils.

This policy is drawn up in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and schedule 10 – accessibility for disabled pupils. 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.”

Principles

In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002).

- Not to treat disabled students less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled students so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled students.

Definition of Disability

According to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) and subsequently by the Equality Act 2010 disability is defined by the as:

*“A person has a disability if he or 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”.*

## 2. What will the Accessibility Plan do?

1. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s SEN Policy, which can be accessed via our website.
2. Northwood 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 educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 regarding disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
3. The Northwood Primary School 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 prepared for life as their able-bodied peers. This encompasses teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in, leisure and cultural activities, extracurricular activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist 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. Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness of equality issues for staff and governors to comply fully with the Equality Act 2010.
5. This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents :
  - Behaviour Policy

- Health and Safety Policy
- SEND Policy
- School Improvement Plan

6. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

7. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.

### 3. Our Aims

The school will ensure that the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school is paramount. The main priorities in the school's plan will be in the following areas:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum
- Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services
- Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils, staff, parents and visitors in an appropriate format

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below.

### 4. 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. Children with disabilities may in some cases require a care plan.

#### Physical Environment

Disabled pupils are offered opportunities to partake in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extracurricular 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. There are no parts of the building which children or adults with disabilities 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. 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 are a communication friendly environment and key staff are trained in a variety of communication ways. Outdoor learning is an integral part of the curriculum for pupils at

Northwood Primary School and children with disabilities are able to fully access all areas of the outdoor environment. 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. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats made available for disabled pupils, parents and staff if required.

## 5. Audit of current practice and provision

- A lift is in place for easy access to the first floor.
- The school has 3 disabled toilets that are sufficiently large enough to accommodate a wheelchair and toileting chairs / steps.
- Electronic Whiteboards and visualisers are in place in all classrooms, supporting the learning of ASD, VI and HI pupils and those with moderate learning difficulties.
- The school has introduced cursive script handwriting to support the development of effective writing skills.
- The SENCo attends regular Inclusion Network meetings with the Local Authority and Multi Academy Trust per year to keep abreast of current issues.
- Pupils with visual dyslexia are provided with coloured overlays and resources to meet their needs.
- Some children with specific needs have additional adult support to enable them to access the curriculum.
- Fire exits from the upper floor have outdoor hand rails and high visibility paint on each step.
- Staff are trained in interventions to support children with physical and sensory difficulties.

## 6. 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 and the Trust.

## 7.Action Plan

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified. This Action Plan will be reviewed annually as part of the ongoing budget planning cycle.

Aim 1 : To Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum		
Action	Success Criteria	Timescale
To liaise with Nursery providers, the Early Years Inclusion Team and parents to review potential intake for September 2023 To identify pupils who may need additional to or different from provision for September 2023.	Procedures/ equipment/ ideas set in place by September.	September of each academic year.
To continue to develop Northwood's outdoor learning curriculum offer so it is fully accessible for all pupils.	Staff have access to specific training to enhance curriculum development.	Ongoing
Ensure all extracurricular and out of school activities are accessible. Monitor the involvement of children	Participation of the whole range of pupils in extracurricular and out of school activities.	Ongoing

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.		
Action	Success Criteria	
<b>Improve physical environment of school environment.</b> 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.	Enabling needs to be met where possible.	Ongoing

Ensure all classrooms are communication friendly.	All classrooms to have lively displays, and visual supports. Classrooms to display stop – think – do posters	
To improve PE offer for disabled pupils by working with Darlington School Sports Partnership.	JT to consider opportunities for inclusive sports/competitions	
Continue to ensure all fire escape routes are suitable for all. Audit current fire procedures. Refresher training for fire wardens. Monitor the cloakroom and corridor areas to ensure they are tidy and clear.	Fire escape routes are suitable for all.	

Aim 3 : Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils, staff, parents and visitors in an appropriate format		
Action	Resources	
Have systems in place e.g. through the MAT, to make available information when requested, in alternative versions e.g. Braille, large print, audio, simplified language	Office Admin budget	As required
Provide information for people with visual impairments who find accessing the website difficult	Admin / Curriculum budget	As and when requested

The plan in paper form will be made available on request and will be accessible via the school website.

Evaluation of the progress of the plan will be made by the governing body through an annual report by the relevant sub-committee.

We will endeavour to make every reasonable adjustment to ensure everyone can access all that Northwood Primary School has to offer.