



Widecombe-in-the-Moor Primary School

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2022 - 2025

Widecombe-in-the-Moor Primary aim to create a secure, happy learning environment where children are nurtured and inspired to become life-long learners. Our school seeks to be a secure and welcoming environment for children and adults in which each person is valued. We strive to provide an atmosphere of respect and consideration to enable children to achieve their very best intellectually, physically and in relationships with others. The school works hard to maintain an inclusive curriculum and a caring ethos. Our school provides the best education possible and develops pupils who are confident, become self-motivated and have lively, enquiring minds. The education is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated for individual needs. We aim to promote an appreciation of our community and environment. Our school is a place for doing, experiencing and taking part.

PURPOSE OF PLAN

This plan shows how we intend, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors:

- **Increasing access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability**
This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits.
- **Improving access to the physical environment**
This includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- **Improving the delivery of written information to pupils**
This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents'/carers' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable timeframe.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

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

BACKGROUND AND AUDIT

Curriculum

We are aware that there are areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils may 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.

Physical Environment

Our school has several barriers to inclusion of physically disabled children, particularly in wheelchairs. We would need to respond to needs if and when they arise but an audit of limitations shows –

- The School House is a two-storey building incorporating the school reception, staff room and staff toilet on the ground floor and, on the first floor, intervention room, Head's office and storeroom. There is no ramp for wheelchair access to the building, either via the front or the back door and there is a step down to the area by the staff toilet and back door. There is no lift to the first floor where the intervention and storerooms are located.
- The main school building incorporating the hall, library, toilets, disabled toilet, and cloak room are accessible by wide corridors and are all on one level.
- The Dart classrooms are accessible by a few steps and a ramp. Currently the door is hanging from the wrong side to be used by the ramp.
- There is no on-site car parking and no dedicated disabled parking bay. Parents park on the road outside the school for dropping off and picking up. If a child has a particular physical need, they can be dropped to the school entrance. Most entrances to the school are flat or ramped and some have wide doors fitted. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

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.

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.

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 of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening.

Current Range of known disabilities

We have asked parents/carers and staff to advise us of any disabilities and no further disabilities have been identified.

Overall

We do not at present have any children with a disability that we are not currently managing within our normal curriculum and physical layout. We are aware that we need to continually review and make changes as and when specific issues are identified.

INCREASING ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM FOR PUPILS WITH A DISABILITY

Improving teaching and learning lies at the heart of the school's work. Through self-review and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), we aim to enhance staff knowledge, skills and understanding to promote excellent teaching and learning for all children. We aim to meet every child's needs within mixed ability, inclusive classes. It is a core value of the school that all children are enabled to participate fully in the broader life of the school.

Consequently, all children have always been permitted to attend age relevant after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and educational visits. The only exception would occur if a child had breached school rules when deprivation of club attendance may be used as a suitable short-term sanction and to ensure the safety of others.

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
Increase confidence of all staff in differentiating the curriculum and a focus on QFT (Quality First Teaching)	Be aware of staff training needs on curriculum access Assign CPD for dyslexia, differentiation and recording methods	On-going and as required	SENCO	Raised staff confidence in strategies for differentiation and increased pupil participation
Ensure all staff have specific training on disability issues	Be aware of staff training needs Staff access appropriate CPD Identify training needs at regular meetings Review the needs of children with specific issues, provide all relevant training.	Ongoing and as required	Academy Head SENCO	Raised confidence of support staff
Ensure all staff (teaching & non-teaching) are aware of disabled children's curriculum access	Set up a system of Individual Access Plan's for disabled children when appropriate Share information with all agencies involved with each child	As required	SENCO	All staff are aware of individual's needs
Use ICT software to support learning	Make sure software is purchased and installed where needed	As required	Academy Head	Wider use of SEN resources in classrooms
All school visits and trips need to be accessible to all pupils – additional risk assessments made	Ensure venues and means of transport are vetted for suitability Develop guidance on making trips accessible	Ongoing	SENCO	All pupils are able to access all school trips and take part in a range of activities
Review PE curriculum to ensure PE accessible to all	Gather information on accessible PE and disability sports	As required	PE co-ordinator	All to have access to PE and be able to excel
Review curriculum areas and planning to include disability issues	Include specific reference to disability equality in all curriculum reviews	As required	SENCO & Academy Head	Gradual introduction of disability issues into all curriculum areas
Ensure disabled children can take part equally in lunchtime and after school activities	Discuss with staff running clubs after school. Support would have to be available – especially after school	As required	SENCO	Disabled children feel able to participate equally in out of school activities

Access arrangements to meet individual's needs when taking tests etc will be applied for and support provided when required	SENCO / Academy Head will ensure appropriate testing and reports are provided in order to apply for access arrangements			All pupils will have their individual needs met and any barriers to achieving their full potential will be removed
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IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SCHOOL

Provision, in exceptional cases, will be negotiated when a pupil's specific needs are known.

We have a range of equipment and resources available for day-to-day use. We keep resource provision under constant review. The schools Improvement planning process is the vehicle for considering such needs on an annual basis.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
To be aware of the access needs of disabled children, staff, governors and parents, carers	To create access plans for individual disabled children Through questions, discussions and newsletters find out the needs of others	As required Annual	SENCO / Class teacher Academy Head	EHCP/provision maps are in place for disabled pupils, and all staff are aware of pupils' needs. All staff, governors, parents/carers are confident that their needs are met. Monitor to ensure any new needs arising are met.
Layout of school	Consider needs of disabled pupils, parents/carers, staff, visitors when considering any redesign	As required	Academy Head	Re-designed buildings are usable by all
Ensure that all areas of school building and grounds are accessible for all children and adults and to continue to improve the access of the physical environment for all.	SEN staff to audit accessibility of school buildings and grounds.		SENCO / Academy Head	Any modifications needed will be made to the school building and grounds that are needed to facilitate ease of access for all
Maintain safe access for visually impaired people	Yellow paint on step edges is required.	Ongoing checks	Academy Head	Visually impaired people feel safe in school grounds.

	Check exterior lighting is working on a regular basis			
Ensure all disabled people can be safely evacuated	Ensure there is a personal emergency evacuation plan for all disabled pupils. Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in evacuation by being aware of the SENCO passport information		Academy Head / class teachers	All disabled pupils and staff working with them are safe in the event of a fire. There is constant supervision for disabled children who would need help in the event of an evacuation. Disabled people in wheelchairs can be evacuated quickly and easily
Provide hearing loops in classrooms to support pupils with a hearing impairment	Take advice from LEIS on appropriate equipment if this becomes necessary	As required	Academy Head	All children have access to the curriculum
All fire escape routes are suitable for all	Ensure staff are aware of need to keep fire exits clear	Daily	Academy Head	All disabled personnel and pupils have safe independent exits from school
Ensure access to IT equipment is appropriate	Including in relation to those with a visual or hearing impairment	As required	SENCO	Hardware and software available to meet the needs of children as appropriate
Ensure any proposed 'new build' project is physically accessible for everyone	Project manager appointed will ensure compliance with building regulations regarding accessibility			Any new construction will be fully accessible
Fire alarm	Currently only auditory			

IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF WRITTEN INFORMATION TO PUPILS

This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. Examples might include handouts, textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable timeframe.

In planning to make written information available to disabled pupils we again need to establish the current level of need and be able to respond to changes in the range of need. The school will need to identify agencies and sources of such materials to be able to make the provision when required. The school's ICT infrastructure will enable us to access a range of materials supportive to need.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success Criteria
Inclusive discussion of access to information in all parent/teacher annual meetings	Ask parents about preferred formats for accessing information	Annually	SENCO / Academy Head	Staff more aware of preferred methods of communication, and parents feel included.
Review information to parents/carers to ensure it is accessible	Provide information and letters in clear print in "simple" English School office will support and help parents to access information and complete school forms Ensure website and all documents accessible via the school website can be accessed by the visually impaired	During induction On-going Current	Administrators	All parents receive information in a form that they can access
Improve the delivery of information in writing in an appropriate format	Provide suitably enlarged, clear print for pupils with a visual impairment	As required	Office	Excellent communication
Ensure all staff are aware of guidance on accessible formats	Guidance to staff on dyslexia and accessible information	On-going	SENCO	Staff produce their own information
Annual review information to be as accessible as possible	Use child friendly DAF (Devon Assessment Framework) review formats	On-going	SENCO	Staff more aware of pupils preferred method of communications

We are aware that the need for reasonable adjustments may arise at any time. These will be reviewed as and when the need is identified. We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.