

Mill Dam School



Accessibility Plan

Ongoing
Review January 2021

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Introduction

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled students", issued by DCFS in July 2002.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

"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."

Key Objective

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to full participation in the school community for students, and prospective students, with a disability.

Challenges

Mill Dam was built as an first school, later converting to a primary and with a nursery annex and office extension added at a later date, recently a small mobile classroom has been added to the site to accommodate rising pupil numbers. There is only a single entrance / exit to the main building suitable for a wheel chair, no ramp access to the mobile classroom and doors to classrooms are standard width. Building improvements or additional access equipment would be needed to make the building fully accessible to wheel chairs or limited mobility.

There is a single (adult sized) disabled toilet in the main building which also contains a changing lift. Classrooms share toilet facilities and these are adapted with steps and seats when needed to meet the needs of students. The nursery and mobile classroom share toilet facilities and these are not suitable for students with limited mobility.

Principles

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with Mill Dam School's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of Mill Dam's SEN policy. Our School recognises its duty under the DDA :

- not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions, and
- provision of education and associated services
- not to treat disabled students less favourably
- to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled students at a substantial disadvantage
- to publish an Accessibility Plan.

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

Mill Dam School recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.

Mill Dam School provides all students with a broad and balanced curriculum, adjusted and personalised where needed to meet the needs of individual students and remove barriers to learning. The full nation curriculum is made available to all students regardless of disadvantage or disability. To achieve this we will:

- set suitable learning challenges, personalising when necessary.

- respond to students' diverse learning needs providing additional support when appropriate while encouraging the development of independent skills.
- take steps to overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of students.

Activity

a) Education & related activities

Mill Dam School will and will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

b) Physical environment

Mill Dam School will take account of the needs of students and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises. Whenever possible adaptations and improvements will be made to the schools facilities to meet the needs of students and ensure that they can fully access the curriculum.

Reviews of facilities will consider the on going access needs of our students and stakeholders, ensuring changes are not made that would compromise the meeting of their needs.

c) Provision of information

Mill Dam School will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Linked Policies

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, e.g.

- School Development plan
- Staff development plan
- Premises development plan
- SEN policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Curriculum policies