



Mill Dam School

Accessibility Plan 2023-2027

Ackworth Mill Dam

Mill Gate

Ackworth

WF7 7PH

01977 610062



WATERTON

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This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. The Academy Standards Committee are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

Definition (Equality Act 2010)

"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" Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments and also hidden impairments. In the Disability Discrimination Act, 'substantial' means more than minor or trivial'. 'Long-term' means has lasted or is likely to last more than 12 months.

The definition is broad and includes children with a wide range of impairments, including learning disabilities, dyslexia, autism, speech and language impairments, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), diabetes or epilepsy, where the effect of the impairment on the pupil's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities is adverse, substantial and long-term. All those with cancer or surviving cancer; HIV or Multiple Sclerosis are now included from the point of diagnosis. A significant number of pupils are therefore included in the definition.

Normal day-to-day activity

The test of whether the impairment affects normal day-to-day activity is whether it affects one or more of the following:

- mobility;
- manual dexterity;
- physical co-ordination;
- continence;
- ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
- speech, hearing or eyesight;
- memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand;
- perception of risk of physical danger.

Mill Dam School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access, which values and includes all students, 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 reinforcing our culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

Our Accessibility Plan shows how access to our school is to be improved for students, staff and visitors, with disabilities, in a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant and timely actions to:

1. improve access to the curriculum for students with a disability.
2. improve access to the physical environment of the school.
3. improve the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.

Improving Access to the Curriculum

We aim to increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability, ensuring that students with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are our students who do not have a disability; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of 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 school visits - it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these students in accessing the curriculum.

Our Current Position – September 2023

We believe that we have made good progress in the following areas:

- Providing appropriate intervention for pupils identified as having additional needs e.g. one to one or small group pastoral support for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH). We also utilise our Future in Mind Primary Practitioner and the support/resources they can provide.
- Developing quality first teaching across the school - Using a range of teaching methods and styles to facilitate access for all students – e.g. appropriate use of language; questioning techniques; pair work; group work; 'mind-friendly' learning techniques to suit all learning styles – visual/ auditory / kinaesthetic, etc.
- Using Wakefield Progression Steps, where appropriate, to measure the progress and achievement of specific students and set attainable targets with high expectations.
- Ensuring that school visits and trips are accessible for all students – providing one-to-one support for children with specific diagnosis.
- Ensuring that children with physical disabilities have full access to the curriculum. For example, last year a child with a physical disability attended the full year of swimming tuition with support in the pool where this was needed.
- Providing electronic equipment for children who need regular access to support their learning and recording skills.
- Development and implementation of metacognition and Behaviour for Learning.
- Collaborative 'Drop-In' Sessions between agencies and teaching staff:
 - Wakefield Learning Support Service (LSS) & Educational Psychologist Service (EPS)
 - Educational Therapy Team (ETT) & Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH)

Priorities for 2023-2027

Target	Strategy	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
Audit of pupil needs and staff CPD to be planned.	Review the specific need for pupils living with a disability in terms of daily living skills and relationships.	SLT All staff	Ongoing	Teachers are aware of relevant issues and can ensure all pupils have equality of access to life preparation learning.
Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils.	Review lay out of furniture and classroom equipment to support learning. Shared areas may need to be used to accommodate specialist seating etc due to the small size of some classrooms.	All staff	Ongoing	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments, to accommodate the needs of individuals.
Provide specialist play equipment.	Enable disabled pupils to enjoy play which would otherwise be inaccessible to them.	SENCO SLT	Ongoing	Disabled pupils have active, inclusive playtimes.
Appropriate use of IT equipment to benefit individual pupils and staff.	Provide specialised appropriate IT resources to meet pupil need, for example, iPad apps purchased to improve access to curriculum for pupils with reading/writing difficulties.	SLT ICT Lead	Ongoing	Increased access to the curriculum and Blended Learning Opportunities
All extracurricular activities are planned to ensure the participation of all pupils.	Review extracurricular activities to ensure compliance with legislation. Provide leaders of extracurricular activities with a copy of relevant IEP information.	SLT SENCO PE Lead	Ongoing	All extracurricular activities are accessible to disabled pupils

- Staff training to be enquired about:
 - Autism Awareness
 - Dyslexia Friendly classrooms
 - Working Memory
 - Understanding Social Communication Difficulties in the Primary School
 - Attachment Theory & Presenting Difficulties in the Classroom
 - Future in Mind
 - Lego Therapy
 - Quick as Qwerty
 - CAMHS Mental Health Training
 - Positive Handling

Improving Access to the Physical Environment

We aim to improve 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.

Our Current Position – September 2023

We believe that we have made good progress in the following areas:

- Ramped access on most school doors.
- Accessible toilet facilities available in school.
- Space for small group work and individual work for targeted learners.
- A physical environment that is safe and welcoming.
- Provision of writing slopes, pencil grips, coloured overlays, soft-touch scissors etc as appropriate.
- Physical aids purchased for classroom use – e.g. wobble cushions, fidget toys etc.
- Signage in place on car park gates and external gates to show clear entry and exit points, which are also monitored by staff members.
- Visitor and parent access to the Staff Car Park, upon authorisation by school.
- Health Care Plans and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) are in place for required children and staff.
- Risk Assessments, as required, for children and staff, including behavioural needs.

Priorities for 2023-2027

Target	Strategy	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
To continue to monitor equipment and resources in school to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities.	Be aware if any equipment is not accessible and purchase new or modify as necessary.	SENCO SLT	Ongoing	No pupil will be restricted or limited in access to play equipment.

Improving Access to Written Information

We aim to improve the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, visual timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

Our Current Position – September 2023

We believe that we have made good progress in the following areas:

- Class Visual timetables are displayed throughout school, including one to one visual timetables for identified students, as required.
- Newsletters for parents are delivered by email to enable parents to enlarge the font as desired, as well as download and view on a computer screen; paper copies are available on request. Where specific parents request paperwork on a different coloured paper, this is also met.
- School documentation, including policies and curriculum information are available on the school website to enable parents to enlarge the font as desired, as well as download and view on a computer screen; paper copies are available on request.
- The Accessibility Plan is placed on the website.
- Coloured overlays and tinted exercise books to support children with visual stress; modified large print is also requested for statutory tests and assessments, if required.

Priorities for 2023-2027

Target	Strategy	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
Availability of written material in alternative formats, including large text for the visually impaired, if requested.	The school will make itself aware of the services available for converting written information into alternative formats.	Office Staff SLT SENCO	As requested	Improved delivery of information to disabled pupils.
Make school newsletters or other information for parents available in alternative formats, including large text for the visually impaired, if requested	Review current school publications and promote alternative formats.	Office Staff SLT SENCO	As requested	Improved delivery of school information to parents.

**Accessibility Plan Audit
2023 – 2027**

Activity to be added after each action taken.

Date	Area	Aspect	Activity	Timescale	Cost
Autumn Term 2023	Quality First Teaching	Curriculum Access	Continuing to develop quality first teaching. SDP priorities this year relating to pedagogy, use of support staff and SEND will all feed into this development.	Ongoing part of 23-24 School Development Plan	N/A Staff Meeting Time
Autumn Term 2023	Accessibility of school building	Curriculum Access	As children's needs change the physical space in classrooms needs to be reviewed. EG: One child in Y4 and one in Y6 require specialist seating and this is difficult to fit into the smaller Y4 classroom. Site staff, SENDCO and class teacher to review this. Some classrooms have a very small step to access from outside. Staff to be aware and PEEPs to be up to date.	Ongoing	N/A