



Accessibility Plan

Ownership: Governing Body

Date of Issue: September 2022

Review Date: September 2025

Headteacher: Debbie Miller

Signature: *Mrs D Miller*

Date: September 2022

Chair of Governors: Judith Sparks

Signature: *Mrs J Sparks*

Date: November 2022

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) and the SEND Code of Practice 2014, as well as the Equality Act of 2010. It draws on guidance set out in “Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils”, issued by DfES in July 2002.

Wheatcroft School buildings are well designed to meet the needs of disabled pupils:

- All classrooms are at ground level
- All public access areas, including all entrances, disabled toilets, dining hall, main hall and Nursery are at ground level
- Ramped or level threshold access is available to all rooms
- The Reception mobile building is accessible via a walkway ramp with no steps as hurdles
- There are disabled toilets for adults with access for children as necessary
- Externally, alternative routes are available where stepped access is the main route.

Section 1: Definition of Disability

You are classified as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

Section 2: Key Objectives

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access the curriculum and to full participation in the school community for pupils, prospective pupils and our adult users with a disability.

Section 3: Principles

1. Compliance with the Equality Act is consistent with the school’s aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school’s SEN policy;
2. The school recognises its duty under the Equality Act:
 - Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
 - Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
 - To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
 - To publish an Accessibility Plan
3. In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Accessible School guidance of 2002.
4. The 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.
5. The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2014 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:

- Setting suitable learning challenges
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual and groups of pupils.

Section 4: Activity

Wheatcroft has identified the following points for action as part of its School Development Plan, in order to achieve the key objective:

Delivery of the Curriculum

School staff receive training in making the curriculum accessible to all pupils, and are aware of its importance.

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of Local Education Authority and other external services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

Physical environment

The school will undertake appropriate and regular risk assessments on premises and equipment to ensure both are fit for purpose and accessible to all.

The school will also take account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements of the site and premises.

Resources

The school will make appropriate provision for the needs of individual pupils such as sound field system, modified furniture to ensure all pupils have equal access to the curriculum.

Provision of information in other formats

The school is aware of local services, including those provided through the Local Education Authority, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Section 5: Linked Policies

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

- School Development Plan
- SEN Policy
- Equality Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Health & Safety Policy