



Whitefriars
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Accessibility Plan

Policy Reference:	A3
Responsibility:	Finance and Buildings
Reviewed by:	Mrs Paula Dix - Headteacher
Consultees:	
This Review:	October 2016
Next Review Due:	October 2019
Cycle:	Three yearly
Ratified by Full Governing Body on:	
Signed:	
Mr Ged Owens	Chair of Governors

With Christ as our guide and example we celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.

Together we will try to:

Learn from Jesus;

Love like Jesus;

Live like Jesus.

Key Objective

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

Policy Statement

Compliance with the EA is consistent with the school's aims and policies and the operation of the school's SEN policy.

The school recognises its duty under the Equality Act (2010):

- 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
- to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- to improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- to improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

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

- recognising and valuing 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.
- providing all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles;.
- Endorsing the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 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.

Activity

a) Education & related activities

The school 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.
Etc

b) Physical environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and our adult users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.
Etc

c) Provision of information

The 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
- SEN policy
- Equality policy
- Curriculum policy
- Anti bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Action Plan

Date of Plan:

Date of Review:

Member of staff responsible: Head Teacher

Governor Committees responsible: Buildings and Finance

This plan was drawn up by
[a working group comprising]

The following were consulted on the draft plan:

Staff	Date.....
Parents	Date.....
Healthcare professionals	Date.....

The plan is also available in the following formats, on request to the school office: (e.g. email; enlarged print version; etc)

	Objective	What	How	When	Goal Achieved
SHORT TERM	Ensure compliance with Equality Act (2010)	Staff and Governors informed of requirements and obligations of EA and of the Accessibility plan	Staff Meeting Governors meeting	Ongoing	School complies with requirements of EA
	Improve availability of written material in alternative forms.	School aware of local and county services for converting written information into alternative formats	SENCo researches and discusses with STA services	Ongoing	School able to deliver information to all pupils and parents with disabilities
	Improve visual contrast	Improve visual identification of doors, handles etc	Ensure thought is given to contrasting colours when redecorating	Ongoing	
	Improve wheelchair access around school	Improve storage to enable classrooms and corridors to be clear of obstacles	Reorganisation of classrooms and purchase of storage	Summer / Autumn 2015	Autumn 2015
	Improve children's understanding of alternative forms of communication	From Reception class teach signing and use alongside verbal communication.	Year R teacher to provide CPD for staff	Ongoing	Children respond to non-verbal communication.

	Objective	What	How	When	Goal Achieved
MEDIUM TERM					
	Improve acoustics for hearing impaired children	Purchase portable induction loop	Investigate cost and source	2015/2016	Induction loop in use
	Improve outdoor lighting	Ensure lighting is adequate for disabled access during darker hours	Improve outside lighting around hall and outside Shamrocks	October 2014	Spring 2015
	Improve wheelchair access to outside areas	Install ramp to gazebo and improve woodland walk pathways	Investigate materials and focused work during grounds force day	2015/2016	Woodland walk and gazebo accessible to wheelchair users
	Improve access to water fountains, sinks and hand towel and soap dispensers in the disabled toilet	Place water fountains further away from the wall. Lower hand towel and soap dispensers where necessary	Cost and source company for water fountains. Caretaker to resite dispensers	2015/2016	Fountains and soap and hand towel dispensers accessible to wheelchair users

	Objective	What	How	When	Goal Achieved
LONG TERM					
	Eliminate steps on fire routes where possible	Level exit routes from school where possible, especially fire exits	Identify which doors can feasibly be adapted and investigate cost	2015/19	Viable exits are level
	Improve access to the site for visitors.	Install electronic gates to car park to enable visitors to access site without phoning ahead.	Investigate cost and source	Sept 20	