



Accessibility Plan

Spring 2024

| Title | Author | Approved | Review Date |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Accessibility Plan | AB | February 2024 | February 2028 |

Introduction

Cliffe VC Primary School is committed to increasing access to the school for all students, staff, parents, governors and visitors. This accessibility plan has been written in accordance with our planning duty under the Special Education Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) and updated with regard to the Equality Act 2010.

The aims of this Accessibility Plan are to :

- Increase the extent to which all students can participate in the school's curriculum, including those with additional needs.
- Improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled students are able to take advantage of education and associated services provided or offered by the school but taking into account the permanent limitation due to the age, type and grade listing of the current school buildings.
- Improving the delivery to disabled students within a reasonable time, and in ways which are determined after taking account of their disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents, as a result of information which is provided in writing for students who are not disabled.

These three areas are addressed in the action plans that follow.

Compliance and review

The Accessibility Plan is reviewed by the school's Headteacher on a regular basis, as determined by the Governors. The SENDCO of Cliffe VC Primary School will ensure that the school is providing the support as required by the student/s, within the limitations of the building.

Key Objectives

The key objectives of the Accessibility Plan are:

- That no student or prospective student is treated less favorably due to their special needs or disability. All reasonable adjustments will be made in matters of admission and education.
- That, where practical, the school will make reasonable adjustments, based on the information and advice received, that will enable a prospective disabled student to take up a place at the school if they satisfy the admission criteria.
- To make the school more accessible (where practically possible within the constraints of the type of school building) to disabled students and staff, including those affected on a short term basis – for example, if the use of crutches or a wheelchair is required for a fixed period as a result of an accident.
- To create a positive “can-do” ethos towards the issues faced by disabled students thus enabling them to take full advantage of the educational experiences offered.

Statutory duty of Cliffe VC Primary School

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001. (SENDA), which places a duty on all schools to plan to increase over time the accessibility of the school for disabled pupils and to implement their plan.

It draws on the guidance set out in “Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils,” issued by the DfES in July 2002

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined as follows by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995:

“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.”

Some children defined as disabled, who for instance have arthritis, may not be defined as having SEN. Some children defined as having SEN, who for instance may have a behavioural difficulty, may not be defined as being disabled. The plan addresses the needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

**Duties placed upon and accepted by the school under the DDA
(as amended by SENDA)**

- a) Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in its admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
- b) Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably.
- c) To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- d) To publish the school's Accessibility Plan and ensure it is available in easy to read formats
- e) Cliffe VC School is committed to an inclusive curriculum and increasing access to the school's facilities for all by:-

i. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum.

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.

ii. Improving access to the physical environment of the school.

This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.

iii. Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils.

This will include planning to make the written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils, available to disabled pupils.

Consultation

The school will ensure that it regularly, both formally and informally, consults with all its stakeholders and appropriate professional organisations to ensure the accessibility plan and its objectives are reflective of what the school is required, both legally and morally, to provide for its students and staff.

It will do this through consultative mechanisms (such as formal and informal meetings, questionnaires etc) and discussions with:

- Governors
- Parental Forums
- School Council
- Appropriate charities and disability representation groups
- Voluntary Groups
- Any other group or organisation the school feels it would be beneficial to consult with

Following these discussions and consultations, the school will then review the accessibility plan to ensure that it reflects the views (where appropriate) and changes to procedures or policies are made (where appropriate).

Aims of ensuring compliance of DDA

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aim and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school's SEN/Inclusion Policy.

The Access Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies.

Reviewing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan

- Adequate resources will be allocated to enable implementation of the plan.
- The plan will be informed by feedback from parents, pupils and people with disabilities.
- The plan will be kept under review and revised as necessary. The Governors will achieve this scrutiny and discussion.
- The plan will be widely published and will be in the application and admissions pack sent to all students and is available on request as well as appearing on the school website
- The plan will be subject to monitoring by OFSTED during inspections.
- The school will follow the recommendations in the Department of Education's guidance 'Implementing the DDA in Schools and Early Years'.

Curriculum

- A range of intervention programmes are available to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities to maximise learning in an appropriate and suitable manner and format.
- All pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of physical activities – provisions are made when some disabilities cause the amount of physical activities to be limited.
- All school visits and clubs are available to all pupils where at all possible
- There are appropriate Staff are trained in the administration of medicines for both chronic and reactive conditions.
- There is a full and varied programme to support transition.
- Inclusive venues for residential visits have been identified.

Physical Environment

The vast majority of areas within the school are accessible. Doors are wide and there is generally mobility access to all entrances, cloakrooms and classrooms. There are no steps within the building; the detached classroom has ramped access. Playground access is typically level and where not so alternative access exists. There is a disabled toilet with appropriate fittings.

Action Plan.

Individual action plan follows, relating to the key aspects of accessibility. It is expected that significant progress will be made over the plans in the coming years, but we acknowledge that there will be a need for ongoing awareness and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter. Teaching methods and techniques will also develop over this period, which may create new challenges. Plans will be made in consultation with the student, parents and teaching staff. Appropriate training will be provided to enable staff to support particular students with accessibility issues.

Improving Curriculum Access

| Target | Action Needed | Leadership | Timescale | Review |
|--|--|----------------|--------------|--------|
| Ensure individuals covered within our curriculum and / or resources used within it include positive examples from the 'disabled community'. Look to include representatives from this community within our cast of visitors to school. | Curriculum leads in all subject areas to look at the inclusion of disabled role models etc within that area of study and ensure representation. Resources to be purchased if necessary to support this. | Subject leads. | By July 2025 | |
| Ensure that all staff are skilled in supporting children with disabilities, as and when required | Work with outreach staff to provide CPD for any staff asked to work alongside any disabled children we may welcome into school. e.g. visual impairment team working alongside class TAs. | SENDCo - AB | As required | |

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|---|---|----------------|-------------|--|
| Ensuring Individual Provision Maps recognise reasonable adjustments that are needed to help children with disabilities or additional needs to access the curriculum appropriately | SENDCo to monitor support plan content for consistency and appropriateness; class teachers to review plans at least termly with parents. | SENDCo - CC | Ongoi ng | |
|---|---|----------------|-------------|--|

Improving the Delivery of Written Information

| Target | Action Needed | Leadership | Timescale | Review |
|--|---|------------|-------------|--------|
| To ensure clear, consistent communication within and from school written information will be made available in a variety of formats. | Publicise the availability of different formats to families and wider audiences. Ensure that online information is assistive-technology friendly. | Admin - SS | By Jan 2025 | |

Improving the Physical Environment

| Target | Action Needed | Leadership | Timescale | Review |
|---|--|------------|--------------|--------|
| Developing a nurture space to support the delivery of social / emotional interventions and provide a safe location for children requiring such support. | Investigate the potential of creating a 'wellbeing area / shelter' in the woodland area to rear of school. Look at further opportunities to carry out such work within this space. | HT | By July 2027 | |