



Newbold School Accessibility Policy 2023-24

Date of this review: September, 2023, by Mrs J Crissey (Headteacher)
Ratified by Newbold School Board of Governors, Autumn Term 2023
Next review : September 2026

Introduction

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. The school Governing Body has three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

1. Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
2. To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
3. To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

If the school is unable, through no fault of its own, to deliver the quality of education a disabled child needs (e.g. through lack of specialised resources or lack of space), we will be open and honest about these facts when discussing admissions with the child's parents/guardians.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

Definition

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/eliminate barriers to the accessibility of the curriculum for pupils, and prospective pupils with a disability and to enable full participation in the school community as is within our power to do so.

The school is committed to ensuring equal treatment of all its employees, pupils and any others involved in the school community, with any form of disability and will ensure that disabled people are not treated less favourably in any procedures, practices and service delivery.

Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school's SEN policy.
- The school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):
 - Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services (excluding reasons centred on lack of school (or parents' funds) as stated above)
 - 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 on the school website.

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.

The school will provide all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles. This curriculum endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2014 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum by:

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

Activities

Education and Related Activities

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of The British Union Conference and outside agencies such as specialist teacher advisers, SEN consultants, and appropriate health professionals. However, additional help required for disabled children extending beyond the basic school fees must be met by the parents or through arranged funding.

Physical Environment: The school will take account of the needs of pupils, parents and visitors 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.

Provision of Information

The school will make itself aware of local services, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Linked Policies

The Accessibility Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies:

- School Development Plan
- SEND Policy

- Equal Opportunities
- ICT Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Anti-bullying
- Educational Visits
- Safeguarding

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Although we cannot commit to accepting pupils who need permanent remote access to learning, the school will make reasonable accommodations for pupils who are enrolled but become ill long term or are recovering from an operation and cannot attend school.

Lessons can be provided through Seesaw with some remote access to teachers and teaching assistants (through Zoom). Work may also be either printed for parents to collect or provided electronically by email. The small size of this school, and the fact that it is independent, precludes permanent one-to-one access for children who cannot attend school - unless a designated person is hired to teach a child, at the parents' expense. The length of absence that we can accommodate will need to be negotiated between the school and the child's parents, according to the impact it will have on the rest of the class and its effectiveness for the ill/recovering child.

We do not provide online education for opted home schooling.

Plan Availability

The school makes its Accessibility Plan available in the following ways:

- A copy is displayed on the school website
- A copy is held electronically on the Staff Common area for staff access only
- A copy can be e-mailed or posted upon request
- The plan can be made available in a large print size format upon request – the school office can be contacted for further details