

**William Barnes Primary School**

# **Accessibility Plan**

## **2021 to 2024**

<b>Adopted date:</b>	22.11.2021
<b>Signature of Headteacher:</b>	<b>Karen Wrixon</b>
<b>Signature of Governing body:</b>	C Walters
<b>Next review date</b>	<b>Summer</b>

## 1. Introduction

All schools must have an Accessibility Plan. This is required by law (the Equality Act 2010).

Accessibility Plans set out how, over time, a school will:

- α) increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils;
- β) improve the physical environment of the school to increase access for disabled pupils; and
- χ) make written information more accessible to disabled pupils by providing information in a range of different ways.

A person has a disability if they have a **physical** or **mental impairment** that has a **substantial** and **long-term** adverse effect on their ability to carry out **normal day-to-day activities**.

This is the Accessibility Plan for William Barnes Primary School.

## 2. Other policies

Our Accessibility Plan complements and supports our:

- *Special educational needs and disability policy and related SEN information report;*
- *policy for Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions;* and our
- Equality Information and Equality Objectives.

It should also be read alongside the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum Policy
- Staff Development Policy
- Health & Safety Policy (including off-site safety)
- Policy relating to Behaviour
- School Development Plan

## 3. Our vision and aims

William Barnes Primary School wants everyone within our school to feel welcome, valued and included in the school community. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment to enable this to happen.

Our pupils are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child achieves all that they can. We want all our pupils to feel confident and have a positive view of themselves.

We want our pupils with a disability to access all elements of school life, including school clubs, activities and trips. We recognise that we may have to do things a little differently to make this happen.

We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010, by removing disadvantage faced by pupils with a disability and eliminating discrimination.

We will ensure that through whole school training, all staff and governors will be aware of our duties to support children with disabilities, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

In implementing our Accessibility Plan, we will take into account the views, wishes and feelings of our pupils and their families.

#### **4. Current good practice**

##### **Identification**

William Barnes Primary School asks for information on any disabilities or health conditions in early communications with new parents and carers. We also carefully observe our pupils' progress and behaviour and will discuss any concerns with parents and carers, as necessary. We then offer support as appropriate.

##### **Curriculum**

William Barnes Primary School has improved access to the curriculum for disabled pupils through the following means:

- Using multimedia activities and interactive ICT equipment (Interactive Whiteboards and iPads) to support specific curriculum areas, e.g. English and maths
- Remote education provided to those who need to self-isolate
- Providing a differentiated curriculum, designed according to need and where necessary with specialist input, for those pupils that require this;
- Offering a Continued Professional Development (CPD) programme to ensure that all staff are knowledgeable of the impact of ASD and attachment disorder on learning;
- Organising classrooms so that they promote the participation and independence of all pupils;
- Staff INSET training regarding sensory impairments and the school environment may be used as necessary;
- Modifying worksheets and curriculum content into large font for pupils with a visual impairment (VI).
- All out of school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils;
- Training for governors in terms of Raising Awareness of Disability issues
- To deploy Teaching assistants effectively to support pupils' participation.

##### **Physical Environment**

William Barnes Primary School has already improved the physical environment of the school to increase access for disabled pupils by:

- Providing flat or ramped access to all school entrances;
- Dedicating 1 parking bay outside the main school entrance for pupils and families, and visitors with a disability;
- Providing an accessible toilet;
- Adding highlighting tape on all thresholds and steps, and yellow paint to the edges of pathways for pupils with reduced vision;
- Ensuring that there is good lighting throughout school, making use of natural light where possible and reducing glare through the use of roller blinds in the hallway and classrooms;
- Removing and fixing of potential trip hazards and keeping all floor spaces uncluttered;
- Applying acoustic panels to walls and ceilings to improve sound quality for pupils with a hearing impairment;
- Providing fabric blinds, curtains, carpets and rubber seals to doors to improve sound quality;
- Ensuring laptops, plumbing and heating are regularly serviced and not too noisy wherever possible.

## **Information**

William Barnes Primary School already makes written information more accessible to disabled pupils through:

- Modifying written information so that this is available in large print for pupils with a visual impairment;
- Adhering to guidelines from specialists (such as the Hearing and Vision Support Services) regarding the presentation of all written information, paying attention to layout and colour;
- Using social stories and picture symbols to explain school rules for pupils who benefit from this.

## **5. Implementation**

Our Accessibility Plan shows how access to William Barnes Primary School will be improved for disabled pupils (and for staff and visitors to the school) and anticipates how we will make reasonable adjustments to support them whenever possible. We will ensure that we do so within a reasonable time-frame.

Reasonable adjustments are positive actions that help pupils with a disability to fully participate in school life.

In doing this, we have thought about:

- How to ensure disabled pupils are as prepared for life as their non-disabled peers;
- How we can encourage pupils with a disability to take part in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and school visits;
- How we might provide auxiliary aids and services (something or someone that provides help or support) to pupils with a disability to support their access to the curriculum;
- Adding specialist facilities to our school as necessary and improving the physical environment;
- How we can improve the delivery of written information, including making this available in various preferred formats and within a reasonable time-frame.

Our Accessibility Plan has been written based upon information from the Local Authority (or site surveyor) and in liaison with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. It will advise other school planning documents.

William Barnes Primary School will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan and will adopt in principle the *Local Authority Strategy for Accessibility*.

Environmental or physical works undertaken in the school to improve access will follow and be guided by the relevant building regulations as advised by the Site Surveyor and the *Local Authority Strategy for Accessibility*.

We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

William Barnes Primary School's Accessibility Plan will be implemented by Karen Wrixon, Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Sufficient resources will be allocated by William Barnes Primary School in liaison with the Local Authority to implement this Accessibility Plan.

## **6. Monitoring**

The William Barnes Primary School Accessibility Plan covers a three year period but will be reviewed regularly and updated if needed. It will be monitored through the William Barnes Primary School Environment Committee.

The governing body, or proprietor will monitor William Barnes Primary School's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility and Schedule 13 regarding Reasonable Adjustments) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

The William Barnes Primary School Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedules 10 and 13 of the Equality Act 2010.

The William Barnes Primary School Complaints Procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

**William Barnes Primary School ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - 2021 to 2024 : Improving access to the curriculum**

<b>What needs to be done?</b>	<b>How will this be achieved?</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>When will this be done?</b>	<b>• How can we tell if this is successful?</b>
To develop a CPD programme to ensure staff are knowledgeable in terms of the needs of pupils with disabilities and strategies to support them.	Staff training requirements identified. Guest speakers, school professionals, inset Attachment training 2020/21	Headteacher  All staff, including support staff  SENCO  Responsible Governor	When a new child joins school with needs that need training At Performance management of staff Whole school training January 2021, core group February 2021, April 2021 onwards-ongoing staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and their families feel supported and their needs understood</li> </ul>
All out of school activities need to be planned in advance to ensure that all pupils with a disability are able to take part.	Ensure all school staff are aware of the duties on schools set out within the Equality Act 2010 and the need to provide reasonable adjustments through INSET training Review all upcoming out of school activities ensuring that sites are suitable for all children with a disability, whether this be for physical access, to ensure sensory needs can be catered for, etc. Consider any reasonable	Headteacher and responsible governor  Senior Leadership Team Outdoor Education Leader  Individual class teachers and SENCO	As trips planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No out of school activities are planned without consideration of how pupils with a disability will be included;</li> <li>• All out of school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements;</li> <li>• Pupils with a disability have access to all school activities such as trips out, residential visits, extended schools activities and sporting events</li> <li>• Pupils and their families feel included in out of school activities.</li> </ul>

	adjustments required to enable pupils with a disability to take part in the out of school activities, including travel requirements.			
To ensure classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment for an individual child in individual class bases.	Headteacher and responsible governor SLT Individual class teachers and SENCO	As needed	All children able to fully participate in all lessons.
Training for Governors in terms of Raising Awareness of Disability issues	Provide training for governors within school.	Headteacher and responsible governor Senior Leadership Team Individual class teachers and SENCO	As needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils and their families feel supported and their needs understood;</li> </ul>
To deploy Teaching Assistants effectively to support pupils' participation.	Ensure staff skills are matched to pupil needs.	Senior Leadership Team Individual class teachers and SENCO	Start of every school year and as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils and their families feel supported and their needs understood;</li> </ul>

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## William Barnes Primary School ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - 2021 to 2024: Improving the physical environment

This plan is structured in conjunction with the school's Asset Management Plan, the school Safeguarding File, the School Travel Plan, Health & Safety Audits, the Capital Build Programme and the Suitability Plan. The plan considers the essential work necessary to ensure reasonable adjustments have been made to the fabric of the main buildings to accommodate accessibility issues. As far as possible, work has been undertaken on temporary buildings to facilitate accessibility arrangements. In some cases Health & Safety issues necessitate more prompt action.

What needs to be done?	How will this be achieved?	Who is responsible?	When will this be done?		How can we tell if this is successful?
The outside areas of the school require improvement; specifically the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>pedestrian access;</li><li>car parking;</li><li>paving;</li><li>external lighting.</li></ul>	Review levels, gradients, cambers and gullies in proximity to all pathways, define footpath edges where necessary and provide tactile paving at key areas Ensure lighting to car park is operational, adequate and considers pollution and local issues;	Headteacher & Janitor Responsible Governor	Ongoing checks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The areas outside of the school building are safe and welcoming and the physical environment is improved by removing any hazards;</li><li>Pupils with disabilities and their families are easily and quickly able to access the school building.</li></ul>
The internal areas of the school require improvement to ensure that pupils with physical difficulties can access the school environment. Specifically, the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Entrance area</li></ul>	Replace internal security doors to allow wheelchair access. Consider moving external door toward road to create more space for wheelchair access and enabling simultaneous use of area by others. Consider installation of a loop hearing system for the counter.	Headteacher Responsible Governor	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The entrance to the school is welcoming and safe to all;</li><li>Pupils and their families feel needs are met;</li></ul>



	Canopy over main entrance.				
Improve signage and aids for visual and hearing impaired.	Consider locating colour and tactile signs	Headteacher SENDCo Responsible Governor	Ongoing		

William Barnes Primary School ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - 2017 to 2020 : Making written

What needs to be done?	How will this be achieved?	Who is responsible?	When will this be done?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can we tell if this is successful?</li> </ul>
The availability of written information in accessible formats needs to be reviewed, starting with content on the school's website	The school will make itself aware of the services available through local charities, providers and the LA for converting written information into alternative formats (e.g. the use of symbols, large font, listening aids etc.) and will research good practice in other schools.	Headteacher and SENCO	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All future written information is designed with the specific needs of disabled pupils in mind;</li> <li>Disabled pupils and their parents have an increased awareness of all matters usually communicated via written means;</li> </ul> <p>Delivery of said information to disabled pupils and their parents is improved and meeting their requirements.</p>
The awareness of adults working at and for the school needs to be raised, regarding the importance of using a range of communication systems according to individual need	Whole school awareness training regarding methods of communication to aid learning/understanding for pupils with different needs; A communication audit by SALT and other specialist services as appropriate to the needs of pupils at the school; Specific training for those developing written information for the school and class teachers supporting pupils with specific needs.	Headteacher  Senior Leadership Team	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are aware of the different ways in which pupils take on and learn new information;</li> <li>Thought is given to all future communication with disabled pupils in mind;</li> <li>The school is more effective in meeting the needs of pupils with a disability;</li> </ul> <p>Pupils with a disability and their parents feel welcome and confident that their needs are being met.</p>