

WHITGREAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Accessibility Plan



Mrs Redfern - Head Teacher

"Pupils are safe and very well cared for in this harmonious and secure environment.
Everyone is valued and treated with respect".

OFSTED, 2015.

Context

Whitgreave is a 2 form entry, with the majority of pupils coming from a White, British background. A number of other minority ethnic groups are represented in the school, the largest of these being pupils of mixed heritage. The school's deprivation indicator is 0.59%, which is significantly above National and within the top 20% of schools. The % of pupils eligible for FSMs is 41.5%, which is above National, however, not all families take up this option. A number of families take up the flexi-charging option, for low income families, which equates to a further 23%.

Rationale

Accessibility Planning Schools and LAs need to carry out accessibility planning. Accessibility plans in schools are aimed at:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum;
- Improving the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided;
- Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils;
- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.

The curriculum covers teaching and learning and wider provision embracing after school clubs; leisure, sporting and cultural activities; and school trips. Planning for improved access to the curriculum includes consideration of school and classroom organisation and support, timetabling, curriculum options, deployment of staff and staff information and training.

Our Vision and Aims

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. At Whitgreave, the Plan will be monitored by the Head Teacher and SENCO and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee. It will also be published on the school website.

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. We have an admissions policy and criteria, which is available to view on our website, and seeks to remove barriers to entry to our school for pupils with special needs and/or disabilities. We strive to be a fully inclusive and welcoming school as our mission statement states. We provide written information to pupils with disabilities in ways that are user-friendly and fully support the pupils in their learning experience.

Our staff regularly review their teaching strategies to ensure that any potential barriers to learning and participation by disabled pupils are removed. We support our teaching and nonteaching staff with a programme of in-depth training designed to raise their awareness of disabilities and to enable them to minimise any potential difficulties for pupils. We promote the importance of using language that does not offend amongst both our staff and our pupils and ensure that, wherever possible, positive examples of disability are portrayed in teaching materials.

The Current Range of Disabilities within Whitgreave Primary

The school has children with a limited range of disabilities which include Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and other serious medical conditions. When children enter school with specific disabilities, the school contacts the LA professionals for assessments, support and guidance for the school and parents. We have a few children who have medical needs and all staff are aware of these children. Inhalers are kept in the classrooms and a record of use is noted. Some children have allergies or food intolerances/cultural food choices. All medical information is collated and available to staff, on the staff noticeboard. We have competent First Aiders who hold current First Aid certificates. All medication is kept in a central safe and secure place which has easy access for First Aiders and staff members. Administration of Medicines consent forms are filled in by parents outlining the illness and amount and time of medication. All medication that is given is recorded.

Definition of disability

You're 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. [GOV.UK - Equality Act 2010]. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Schools Equality Policy.

Improving the physical environment of schools

The physical environment includes steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces and paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits (including emergency escape routes), internal and external doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lighting, heating, ventilation, lifts, floor coverings, signs, interior surfaces, room decor and furniture.

Improvements to physical access includes ramps, handrails, lifts, widened doorways, electromagnetic doors, adapted toilets and washing facilities, adjustable lighting, blinds, induction loops, communication aids, well designed (passive) room acoustics and way-finding systems.

The provision of 'quiet' areas and improvements to the physical safety of the environment, indoors and outdoors, may also enhance access for children with learning disabilities.

Physical aids to access education covers ICT equipment, desks, chairs, writing equipment, science equipment, e.g. through enlarged computer screens and keyboards, concept keyboards, communication aids, switches, photocopying enlargement facilities, specialist desks and chairs and portable aids for children with motor co-ordination and poor hand/eye skills such as extra robust scientific glassware and specialist pens and pencils.

Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

This part of the duty covers planning to make written information normally provided by the school to its pupils - such as hand-outs, timetables, textbooks, information about school events - available to those with a disability (including those with significant low reading acquisition levels). This might include alternative formats such as large print, the use of ICT and the provision of information orally, through lip speaking or in sign language. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and views expressed by pupils or their parents about their preferred means of communication.

Reasonable adjustments

Factors a school may consider when assessing the reasonableness of an adjustment, may include the financial or other resources required for the adjustment, its effectiveness, its effect on other pupils, health and safety requirements and whether

aids have been made available through the Special Educational Needs route. Cost will play a major part in determining what is reasonable. For example, a small rural primary school may not be able to provide specialised IT equipment for any disabled pupils who may need it and it may not be reasonable for the school to provide that equipment. On the other hand, a much larger school might reasonably be expected to provide it.

The guidance states that many pupils with a disability will have an EHCP and auxiliary aids provided by the LA and so may not require anything further. However, if the disabled pupil does not have a statement (or the statement doesn't provide the necessary aid) then the duty to consider reasonable adjustments and provide such auxiliary aids will fall to the school.

Dyslexia Friendly Status

The British Dyslexia Association's (BDA) defined Dyslexia as: Dyslexia is a learning difference, a combination of strengths and weaknesses which affect the learning process in Reading, Spelling, Writing and sometimes Numeracy. People with Dyslexia may also have accompanying weaknesses in short term memory, sequencing and the speed at which they process information. These are skills that everyone needs if they are to learn and work effectively.

Being a Dyslexia friendly school not only helps us to meet the needs of Dyslexic pupils, but also the needs of pupils who have delayed Literacy skills. Indeed, evidence suggests that all children who are taught using Dyslexia friendly methods are able to benefit and that, in essence, more children are able to benefit when Dyslexia friendly methods are adopted throughout school. We also recognise that a child's self-esteem and confidence goes hand in hand with successful learning and behaviour. Therefore, our children are made aware of Dyslexia via assemblies, PSHE and National Dyslexia Week. Furthermore, we hold a 'Dyslexia Day' once a term. Positive role models are continually discussed around school.

In classrooms, you will find an Additional Needs Folder which contains any information you will need to know about our pupils who are Dyslexic, or show some Dyslexic tendencies. This is updated on a regular basis by the SENCO, in conjunction with the Class Teacher.

Here at the Whitgreave Schools, we believe in educating and supporting our Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Parents and Governors on the signs of Dyslexia and how best to support our pupils with these tendencies within all of their lessons. We have a clear Referral Pathway to route concerns - this can be discussed in further detail with any member of staff. For further information, please see our individual subject policies and the Dyslexia Friendly Policy.

School Development Plan

At the Whitgreave Schools, accessibility is of high importance. For this reason, 'accessibility' and the 'learning environment' have been included as a Key Issue of the School Development Plan. Please see a member of the SMT if you wish to discuss this further.

Accessibility

Whitgreave Primary School will comply with the Building Regulations and the School Premises Regulations 2012 and should be physically accessible to disabled pupils. We will plan to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can access the school curriculum;
- Improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can access education and associated services;
- Improve access to written information which is provided to disabled pupils.

This will be done within a reasonable period of time and in formats which take account of the views expressed by the pupils and parents / carers about their preferred means of communication. We will review our accessibility targets at least every three years. The targets can be found below.

ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN

This accessibility plan has been drawn up in consultation with the governors and staff of the school sets out past and future planned action. It is reviewed annually, and refreshed every four years in line with the Single Equality and Diversity Policy and Objectives.

At Whitgreave Primary School, we are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all children, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

We are further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. We plan, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The following areas form the basis of the Accessibility Plan with relevant actions to:

- Increase access to the curriculum, incorporating after school and out of school activities including educational visits;
- Improve access to the physical environment of the school;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Single Equality and Diversity Policy and Equality Objectives;
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures;
- Policies and Procedures related to Safeguarding;
- SEN and Inclusion Policy;
- Behaviour Management Policy;
- School Improvement Plan;
- Asset Management Plan;
- Policy for Educational Visits.