



Accessibility Plan

Reviewed: December 2021

This will be reviewed: September 2023

At Fairfield School our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to recognise everyone's uniqueness and success and recognise learning in all its forms. We are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

Fairfield School is a single story (PFI) building planned and built with wheelchair access a priority focus. There is wheelchair access to all areas of the building and playground areas.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that "schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation".

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

Objectives

Fairfield School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

The Fairfield School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to: -

- Maintain access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe, for example possibly increasing the number of both static and mobile hoisting equipment if the need arises.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

The Fairfield School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

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

- Behaviour Management Policy ▪ Curriculum Policies
- Emergency Plan ▪ Health & Safety Policy ▪ School Improvement Plan ▪ Special Educational Needs Policy ▪ Teaching and Learning Policy

The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2021 – 2023

Action Plan A – Improving Physical Access

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Exiting the car park onto White Lee Road still remains dangerous due to parked vehicles on the roadside obstructing views from both direction	Issue previously raised to Kirklees Highways Department by Governors with no resulting outcomes School staff advised of hazards and need for extra care when exiting the school grounds	On-going	low	n/a	No obligation for Kirklees to address
2	Areas of the grounds at times become inaccessible due to nettles / thistles in the summer, and fallen leaves and branches in the winter	Grounds team to ensure full access to outdoor learning environments at all times	On-going	high	n/a	
3	Wheelchair equipment being stored in the corridor and impacting on safe access for staff and pupils	Each class to have its own cornered off outdoor area and canopy, to enable safe storage of class equipment	Aug 2024	low	£15k per class	
4	Difficulties in moving pupils to and from the buses in severe weather, cause by the length of the existing canopy.	Complete full design exercise to extend canopy at both ends.	Aug 2024	low	Architect £5.5k May 2021 Initial estimate £215k plus legal fees	
5	Rebound Room and Assistant Headteacher office become too hot in the summer to be an effective accessible working environment	Air conditioning units to be installed	Feb 2022	high	£7.6k	

Action Plan B - Improving Curriculum Access

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Differentiation and the personalisation of teaching	SLT to monitor quality of differentiation and implementation of personalised curriculum	On-going	High	n/a	
3	Teaching areas and curriculum activities are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Regular monitoring of teaching areas to ensure students continue to access opportunities to engage and develop independence	On-going	High	n/a	
4	Ensuring relevant curriculum linked to personal needs is in place which supports all pupils	Provision Leads/SLT Pathway Links to monitor the effective implementation of range of provisions and their impact on pupil progress	On-going	High	n/a	

Action Plan C - Improving the Delivery of Written information

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Availability of written materials in alternative formats when specifically requested	The school will make itself aware of the services available for converting written information into alternative formats if required	On-going	low	n/a	
2	Review documentation on website to check accessibility for parents	The school will review formats publicised on the school website – particularly for new parents to school	On-going	medium	n/a	