

Hamsterley Primary School



"Opening Minds, Unlocking Potential, Sharing Success Together"

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2020-2023

Review Date: January 2020

Article 28

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available for every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 3

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

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Vision Statement

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. The Definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010:

"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."

Hamsterley Primary School is committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents/carers, visitors and members of the local community regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion, within both the School and the wider community. The strategies and relevant areas for action within this accessibility plan, reflects the Mission Statement of Hamsterley Primary School:

"Opening Minds, Unlocking Potential, Sharing Success Together"

Our vision is one of a dynamic, well-resourced school, with clear and open communication, holistic in its approach, proactive in its attitude to change, striving to improve the standards of achievement and quality of life for its young people and their families, through an appropriate, inclusive, well-balanced and meaningful education.

The school, as an essential part of the wider community, is committed to providing a totally integrated service for young people through the development of strong links with families, other service providers and schools, industry, business, churches, and charitable institutions, and through our specialist knowledge in communication and interaction. Hamsterley Primary is a school where parents are partners, the governing body is active, expectations are high, learning is fun, and in a mutually supportive environment staff and young people are motivated to do their best.

An Accessibility Plan will be drawn up to cover a three-year period. The plan will be updated annually.

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Article 23 United Nations Convention Rights of the Child:
A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life in conditions that promote dignity, independence and an active role in the community

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant strategies and actions as to how the School intends to:

1. **Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability and/or English as a second language.**

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability and/or English as a second language, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are prepared for life. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the School such as participation in the after-school club, leisure and cultural activities or educational visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.

2. **Improve access to the physical environment**

- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the School, adding specialist features as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the School and physical aids to access education.
- The action plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School which is undertaken annually. If there are any resultant actions from this audit, which are not feasible to be carried out during this year, then these will need to roll forward into subsequent accessibility plans. The audit will need to be re-visited each year, in line with the review of the Accessibility Plan in order to inform the development of the new plan.

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3. **Improve the delivery of written information to all stakeholders**

- Improve and make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors with disabilities including English as a second language. 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 time frame.
- There are already a number of examples where the School has provided adjustments to allow written information to be available to all stakeholders. For example, e mail and text message communication.

4. **Improve access to Pastoral Support for all stakeholders with a disability**

- Pastoral Support for pupils within the School is provided by the class teams.
- Any additional support requirements for pupils, should be directed to Mrs L Cowans Headteacher, responsible for Student Wellbeing/ SENCO/ Designated Safeguard Lead.
- For any enrichment support or opportunities, these requirements should be directed to Damian Hassan Deputy headteacher/Designated Safeguard Lead.

5. **Improve access to the required support services for families who are impacted by a disability**

- Parents/ carers, Members of the community, who have responsibility for a pupil with a disability, can all be affected in some way. At Hamsterley Primary School, we aim to support the needs of those people as well as engaging in partnerships with the local community, to promote accessibility. For more information please direct your enquiry to Mrs L Cowans.

The strategies and action plans for points 1 and 3 are covered in, and supported by the following School Policies and documents - please refer to these documents for further details:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy, (and also a SEND Information Report)
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions,
- Health & Safety Policy,

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Information about our Accessibility Plan will be made available on our website - but may be requested as a written copy - so that it can be shared with staff, parents/carers and visitors. The School's Complaints Procedure and Policy covers this Accessibility Plan.

The Governing Body of the School are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period. The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis or in the instance of applicable legislation changes. Safeguarding audits and Health and Safety audits will also contribute to the reviewing of this Accessibility Plan.

The Buildings and facilities at Hamsterley Primary School are fully Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

[Equality Act 2010 and schools: departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities, GOV.UK – DfE \(Adobe pdf file\)](#) [The Equality Act 2010 and schools: departmental advice, GOV.UK – DfE \(Adobe pdf file\)](#)

A school's duty to make reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments for pupils

The Department for Education (DfE) has published guidance to help schools understand their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

Where something a school does places a disabled pupil at a disadvantage compared to other pupils, the school must take reasonable steps to try and avoid that disadvantage

Paragraph 4.13 explains that schools have a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities. The document summarises the duty as:

- Where something a school does places a disabled pupil at a disadvantage compared to other pupils, the school must take reasonable steps to try to avoid that disadvantage*
- Schools will be expected to provide an auxiliary aid or service for a disabled pupil when it would be reasonable to do so, and if an aid would alleviate any substantial disadvantage that the pupil faces in comparison to non-disabled pupils*

In addition, the guidance notes that schools are not under a reasonable adjustment duty to make alterations to physical features, as this is already considered as part of their planning duties.

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Site Access and Audit of the School

The Site Access Audit was carried out by the Senior Management January 2020 and Health and Safety January 2020. The Outcome, along with any resultant actions - to form ongoing Action plan - are displayed in the table below.

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person Responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	One storey which is fully accessible from the front of the building	Risk assessment completed for slips and fall risks As and when need arises ramps to be provided for access to outdoor areas	SLT/ Caretaker SLT	Jan 2020
Parking Bays	One Disabled Parking Space	Space to be kept clear for disabled parking	AW/LC	
Entrances	All entrances are level and wheelchair accessible	Continue to monitor for wear and tear Re new the markings at main entrance at front of building with yellow paint	Caretaker Caretaker	Ongoing February 2020
Ramps	A number of ramps on site to provide alternative access.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Toilets	There is one wheelchair accessible toilet within the School. There is an alarm in this toilet in case of emergencies.			
School Reception Area	Fully wheelchair accessible. There is the option of alternative seating upon request. Main Entrance Doors to Reception require manual intervention by wheelchair users.	Staff to ensure wheelchair users can access main entrance door.	All staff	Ongoing

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Internal Signage	All signage is clearly displayed and visible throughout the School including tactile signage for the visually impaired.	Audit of internal and external signs	LC DH AW	June 2020
Emergency Escape Routes	All routes accessible and PEEPs (personal Emergency Egress Plan) are prepared as appropriate.			
Disabled Lifts/ Hoists	Present throughout the School, e.g. to support pupils getting changed, access in and out of wheelchair and toileting.	None at present No existing need however as and when need arises ALL needs would be facilitated		
Classroom Tables - Disabled Access	Alternative tables are available throughout the School in classrooms which provide height level access for wheelchair users.			
Internal Door Access	All of the doorways within the School are wide enough for wheelchair access.			
Loop System	If we had a child with a hearing impairment requiring a loop system, purchase would be immediate.		SLT	

Lynn Cowans (Headteacher)

Date: 27th January 2020

Signed & Adopted by the Governing Body:

Mark den Hollander - Chair of Governors

Date: 25th February 2020

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