

Introduction

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. 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 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. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head.

Notre Dame 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. They 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.

Notre Dame School has adopted this accessibility plan in line with the school’s special educational needs policy with the aim to ensure that their school is socially and academically inclusive, that all pupils have access to a full curriculum, and that all pupils are appropriately challenged. This plan is created in response to the recommendations made in our school’s last access audit which took place in January 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the Access Audit.

Our special educational needs policy outlines the provision that our school has in place to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the school’s publication of equality information and objectives explains how we ensure equal opportunities for all our students. Increased access to the curriculum, physical access to the school, and access to information are particular to students with SEND, and this accessibility plan provides an outline of how the school will manage this part of the SEND provision.

Under the remit of the Equality Act 2010, provision should be made for all pupils with disabilities and ensure that they are not discriminated against. The need for specialist support and educational provision should be clearly identified and used effectively, to the full benefit of the pupil’s development. Under SEND all schools have a duty to audit access to buildings and facilities and develop an Accessibility strategy and plan covering a 3 year period. Through implementation of the Accessibility Plan schools should be aiming to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of the education and associated services provided by the school
- Improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided to pupils who are not disabled.

Pupils with SEND will be given access to the curriculum supported by the school’s specialist SEND provision and in line with the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Head teacher to ensure that it is accessible to pupils of all levels and abilities, and supports the learning and progress of all pupils as individuals. This includes learning outside the classroom.

It is our aim to ensure that all resources and SEND provisions are being used effectively and efficiently within the school setting in order to support the taught curriculum and enable pupils to reach their full potential. The school does this by:

- keeping staff fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils in their charge including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback
- providing regular training and learning opportunities for staff in all departments on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching; school staff should be up to date with teaching methods that will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND
- making use of all class facilities and space
- using in-class provisions and support effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary
- making sure that individual or group tuition is available where it is felt that pupils would benefit from this provision
- any decision to provide group teaching outside the classroom will involve the SENCO in providing a rationale and focus on flexible teaching. Parents will be made aware of any circumstances in which changes have been made
- setting appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels
- listening to pupils' views and taking them into account in all aspects of school life.

2. Sensory and physical needs

The school has some of the following adaptations in place to meet sensory and physical needs and those not yet present are being planned for the future:

- appropriate seating, acoustic conditioning and lighting
- adaptations to the physical environment of the school
- adaptations to school policies and procedures
- access to alternative or augmented forms of communication
- provision of tactile and kinaesthetic materials
- access to low vision aids
- access to specialist aids, equipment or furniture
- regular and frequent access to specialist support

3. Reasonable adjustments

The school will also make reasonable adjustments for individual students who need extra provision than that which is already in place to make sure that all students are involved in every aspect of school life, and that all barriers to learning are removed. These may fall under the following headings:

The building and grounds:

- audio-visual fire alarms
- assistance with guiding

Teaching and learning:

- a piece of equipment
- extra staff assistance
- an electronic or manual note-taking service
- readers for pupils with visual impairments

Methods of communication:

- a piece of equipment
- the provision of a sign language interpreter, lip-speaker or deaf-blind communicator
- induction loop or infrared broadcast system
- videophones
- readers for pupils with visual impairments.
- This accessibility plan will be evaluated every 3 years to monitor its effectiveness and ensure that it covers all areas of accessibility that are needed in the school

Signed by

Head Teacher _____ Date: _____

SENCo _____ Date: _____

Governor _____ Date: _____

Priority Ratings

Priority A:

Where there are potential health and safety risks or where failure to implement changes would be highly likely to attract legal implications. Immediate action is recommended to put changes into effect.

Priority B:

Where action is recommended within the short term to alleviate an access problem or make improvements that will have a considerable impact.

Priority C:

Where action is recommended within 12 - 24 months to improve access.

Priority D:

Where the recommendation involves excessive costs or should be implemented as part of a long-term plan.

KEYS FOR COSTS

Budget costs have been included in the form of bands.

N - None M - Minimal OG - Ongoing Maintenance ST - Structural Change

Accessibility Plan for Notre Dame School

January 2017

Item	Areas	Recommendation	Priority A	Priority B	Priority C	Keys for costs	Target date	Date Achieved
1	Car Park	Install a sign at the entrance to your car park directing drivers to the disabled/visitor car parking for your school. Mark out pedestrian walkways in the car parks. Install dropped kerb near the main entrance to the school.	X			M	2017	
2	External Ramps and Outside Steps	Ensure that the ramps are kept clear of grit and gravel which could present a trip hazard and that the surfaces are kept in good condition. Mark start and end of ramps as indicated. Install further handrails.	X			M	OG	
3		Install further handrails where necessary so that there are 2, one on each side of every set of steps with 3 risings or more.	X			M	2017	
4		Mark tape at the start and end of each handrail to aid the visually impaired students and visitors.	X			M	2017	

5		Paint nosings on the top and front of each step to highlight changes in levels. Usually yellow paint is used. Ensure faded nosings are renewed	X			M	2017	
6	Entrances	Check the door closures regularly and alter accordingly. Because manual door closers are fitted to all of the entrance doors, make sure these are adjusted to provide the minimum force necessary to open or close the doors. Install automatic entrance doors if the budget permits.	X			N	2017	
7	Internal Areas	Ensure that missing bulbs and fluorescent tubes are replaced as soon as possible. Ensure that circulation routes are kept clear of obstructions, such as sports equipment, deliveries, and stationery.	X			M	OG	
8	Reception Area	Ensure you provide at least one seat with arms in your waiting area and in your staff room.	X			N	2017	

9		Install a shelf at a suitable height under/close to the reception desk or adjust the present desk.		X		M	2018	
10		Consider blinds at the windows in the reception area.		X		M	2018	
11	Signage	It is inclusive to incorporate tactile signage into all new signage. Change all signage in upper case to lower case.	X			M	OG	
12		Add directional signage inside the school building.		X		M	2018	
13	Internal Doors	Ask the caretaker to check every door for noise levels regularly and adjust accordingly when necessary	X			N	OG	
14		If you admit a visually impaired pupil offer an end coat hook at an independently accessible height. In specialist rooms ensure that there are facilities available for pupils in wheelchairs such as adjustable benches, lower working areas etc.		X		M	OG	
15		Mark propped open doors with well contrasting markings along their narrow edges. Label glass doors with posters or decorative designs.		X		N	2017	

16		Change door handles as part of your ongoing maintenance programme to the D shape handles			X		OG	
17	Internal Staircases and Ramps	Fit nosings onto the steps leading to the school stage and handrails. Highlight the start and end of each staircase with marking tape or different coloured carpet tiles. Highlight handrails at both top and bottom to give a clear visual marker. Install handrails on each set steps where there are more than 3 risings and ensure that handrails are continuous with their landings.	X	X		M	2017/18	
18	WC's provision and for disabled users	Arrange disability awareness and etiquette training and some form of basic manual handling training for appointed members of staff. Check alarm cords are left to hang freely. Install mirrors and coat hooks.	X			M	2017	
19		Provide signage showing the location of the accessible toilets.	X			N	2017	
20		Remove any obstructions on escape routes daily	X			N	OG	

21		Ensure fire doors are in working order and there are no obstructions on the outside	X			N	OG	
22		Provide wheelchair handling training to teachers and caretakers	X			M	OG	
23		An individual should be delegated to ensure all escape routes are free from obstructions. This needs to be done daily	X			N	OG	
24		Continue to train staff to assist in evacuation procedures especially in helping the mobility impaired. Awareness training maybe required	X			N	OG	
25	Outdoors	Purchase a suitable outdoor picnic table for wheelchair users		X		M	2017	