

# Benwick Primary School



## Accessibility Plan 2023

Document	Accessibility plan
This statement was approved:	July 2023
This statement will be reviewed:	June 2026
Governor responsibility:	Full Governing Board

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 Local Governing Board, an individual or the Head.

At Benwick Primary School the Plan will be monitored by the Headteacher and School Business Manager.

Schools are required to produce an Accessibility Plan for:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum – this is whole school level, not just teaching and learning but after school clubs, leisure and sporting activities and school visits;
- improving the physical environment to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils which is provided to pupils who are not disabled - taking into account views of pupils and parents.

Schools are required to:

- ensure that any provision, criteria or practices do not place disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to non-disabled pupils;
- provide any reasonable auxiliary aids which might help remove any such disadvantage, eg, special equipment or large print books.

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**

Benwick Primary 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 Benwick Primary 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:-

- Increase 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;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, books and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

The Benwick Primary 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.

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.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Governing Body.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 17.7.23

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- **The Governing Body**
- **Head Teacher**
- **SENCo**
- **School Business Manager**

### Accessibility Improvement Plan

This plan details adjustments to be made **outside** of those normal everyday adjustments made through differentiation or individual SEND provision and during periods of testing etc.

Improving Physical Access					
Priority	Responsibility	Action	Resource	Timescale	Impact
Make adjustments to the school building as required for individual need.	SENCo/SBM	If disabled pupils are enrolled, ensure there is a review of the school accommodation and that educational and other provision is arranged accordingly. Liaise with Occupational therapists as required.	R&M Budget	As required	
Make disabled parking space available.	Office/site staff	Upon request a parking space will be reserved for anyone needing disabled access. This will be coned off in our carpark.	none	As required	
Improving access to the physical environment of the school					
Priority	Responsibility	Action	Resource	Timescale	Impact
To provide specialist equipment to promote participation in learning by all pupils.	Class teachers/SENCo	Assess the needs of the children in each class and provide equipment as needed. eg. special pencil grips, headphones, writing slopes etc	SEND Budget	Ongoing – reviewed termly as part of APDR	
Improving the Delivery of information					
Priority	Responsibility	Action	Resource	Timescale	Impact

Enable all parents and other members of the school community to access information.	School office	Inform community, via website, that paper copies, enlarged copies, foreign language versions of communication are available by request.	Copying budget	As required	
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