

BELMONT CASTLE **ACADEMY**



Accessibility Plan

Revised Autumn 2020

BELMONT CASTLE ACADEMY

'ACCESSIBILITY PLAN'

Staff responsible: Mark Jones (Principal)
Samuel Minns (SENCo)

Governor Responsible: Steve Smith



RATIONALE

Vision Statement 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 will be reviewed every 3 years or where operational needs dictate and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Principal. At Belmont Castle Academy the Plan will be monitored by the Principal and evaluated by the Finance and Premises and Personnel Committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At Belmont Castle academy we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

Aims:

Our Aims are:

- *Increase access to the curriculum* for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs
 - *To improve the physical environment* of the school to increase the extent to which pupils, staff and other members of the school community with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.
 - *Improve the delivery of information* to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community
- 1) The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. The document will be used to advise other

school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives and will similarly be published on the school website. The Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Premises Committee. The school will work in partnership with other stakeholders in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. 2).

- 2) Belmont Castle Academy 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 adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
- 3) The Belmont Castle Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Belmont Castle Academy Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, adapting the curriculum as necessary. This includes 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 (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010).
 - 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.
 - Where needed, adapt the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include adaptations to 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.
- 4) 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.
 - 5) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Special Educational Needs Policy
 - Trips and Residential Visits Policy

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.

Current good practice

We gather information about any disability or health condition in early communications with parents and carers of children who are new to school. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided.

Physical Environment

There are no areas of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extracurricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible.

Curriculum

Through planning for individual need, we aim to provide as inclusive an approach as practically possible. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible. We seek advice and support from the relevant professionals in order to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available as needs are identified to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is provided in a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff as needed.

Access Audit

The school is a single storey construction. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped. The main entrance features a secure lobby and has been fitted with a desk that caters for those in a wheelchair. The school has dedicated visitor parking. Disabled visitors to the school can park close to the main entrance. There are disabled toilet facilities available throughout the building, located by the main entrance, Year 4 corridor and EYFS block. These are all fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

Management, coordination and implementation and review

- We consult with other professionals and services when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- We work closely with parents to consider their children's needs.
- The policy is reviewed annually and/or as children's needs change.
- The annual review is then shared with staff.
- We make links with other schools to share best practice through regular SENCo network meetings and other communications as needed.

Complaints

The schoolwork's, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Principal. The SEND governor or chair of governors may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on his or her ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

App.1 Examples of Accessibility Planning

Accessibility Planning

Increasing access to the curriculum

This might include:

- Changes to teaching and learning arrangements
- Classroom organisation
- The deployment of learning support
- Timetabling
- Staff information
- Grouping arrangements
- Peer support

Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils

Information for disabled pupils – normally provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled. It includes:

- Handouts
- Timetables
- Textbooks
- Information about school events
- iPad apps

It might include making information available:

- In Braille
- In large print
- On audio tape
- Through sign language
- Using a symbol system
- Staff trained in BSL Level 2

Improvements to the physical environment

Designed to ‘increase the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and associated services. This might include:

- Lighting
- Signing
- Improvements to the acoustic environment
- Floor coverings
- Toilets and washing facilities
- Furniture
- Layout of the playground

Accessibility plans and strategies must be:

- In writing
- Adequately resourced
- Implemented
- Reviewed
- Revised as necessary

Publication of plans and strategies:

- Schools must publish information in annual report to parents
- LAs need to make their strategies available on request

Covid 19 safe provision:

- Ensure disabled assess is in line with School Risk Assessment
- Appropriate controls in place to keep disabled pupils, staff and parents safe

(Adapted from Phillippa Stobbs, Council for Disabled Children)

Action Plan Aim 1:

To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum. Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability, medical condition or other access needs.

(Provision may include: Liaison with specialists, CPD for staff, a differentiated curriculum, specialist resources to support learning and access to the curriculum, a range of support staff including trained teaching assistants and access arrangements in place for statutory testing)

| Targets | Strategies | Timescales | Responsibilities | Success Criteria |
|---|---|------------------------|--|---|
| To liaise with pre-school providers to prepare for the new intake of children into Foundation each year | To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision | May to July annually | HT EYFS Leader and teachers | Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school |
| To liaise with educational establishments to prepare for the intake of new children who transfer within year | To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision | Ongoing as need arises | HT & Deputy/SENCo | Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school |
| To review policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure | To comply with the Equality Act 2010 | Ongoing | SLT & Governors | All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure |
| To establish and maintain close liaison with parents | To ensure collaboration and information sharing between school and families. | Ongoing | SLT and all teaching staff | Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning |
| To establish and maintain close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with additional needs | To ensure collaboration between all key personnel. | Ongoing | SLT/SENCo, all teaching staff and outside professionals | Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning |
| To include pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs as fully as possible in the wider curriculum including trips and residential visits as well as extracurricular provision | Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual children. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out. | Ongoing | SLT, SENCo and all teaching staff, extracurricular service providers and educational visits settings | Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made |

Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.

| Targets | Strategies | Timescales | Responsibilities | Success Criteria |
|---|---|-------------------|---|--|
| Improve the physical school environment | The school will take account the needs of pupils with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting and colour schemes, clear signage and more accessible facilities and fittings. | Ongoing | SLT, site manager, Caretaker and governors | Evidence that appropriate considerations have been made wherever physical school improvements are carried out. |
| Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs | Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out. | Ongoing | SLT, SENCo, all teaching staff and site manager | As full as possible inclusion for all pupils. Safe evacuation in an emergency. |

Aim 3: Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

| Targets | Strategies | Timescales | Responsibilities | Success Criteria |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors. | Create and offer information in alternative formats Access arrangements are considered and put into place for statutory testing | Ongoing | SLT, teachers, admin team and SENCo | Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made |
| Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for parents with a disability, medical condition or other access needs so as they can fully support their child's education | Adopt a proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of parents and make reasonable adjustments where possible | Ongoing | Whole school team | Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made, so that parents can fully support their children in their education. |