

E21C Trust Primary School

Accessibility Policy

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Introduction

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Local Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

1. not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
2. to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
3. to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of the E21C Trust Primary Schools to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- a) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- b) improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- c) improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that the schools' accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. At the end of this document is our action plan and details showing how the schools will address the priorities identified in the plan.

Context

E21C Trust Primary Schools are mixed school who educate pupils aged from 4-11. E21C Trust Primary Schools are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all of our pupils whatever their needs or abilities. Not all pupils with disabilities have special educational needs and not all pupils with SEN meet the definition for disability. This Accessibility Plan covers all of these pupils.

This Single Equality Scheme explains and responds to our statutory duties to promote equality in all areas identified as protected characteristics in the Equality Act (2010).

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and are encouraged to participate in the life and work of the school to the best of their abilities.

This Accessibility Plan exists to ensure that we fulfil our vision of wide-ranging opportunities for all where every individual in our community is valued so that we develop the moral values, confidence and resilience to make a difference to lives at school and beyond.

We aim to:

- Identify pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and ensure that their needs are met
- Ensure that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are able to join in with all the activities of the school
- To ensure that all learners make the best possible progress
- To ensure that parents and carers are informed of both their child's special needs and progress and that there is effective communication between parents and school

The specific areas covered by the accessibility plan that need to be included are: -

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

We should identify action in the school access plan to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for all those in the school community with disabilities.

These may include:

- Consideration of whole-school ways of increasing participation in activities such as after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities, as well as out of school visits, particularly for difficult-to-include pupil groups, such as those with physical or behavioural challenges.
- How threats to participation have been analysed using risk assessment proformas and action taken to reduce those identified risks.
- Identifying how classroom support arrangements, such as deployment of teaching assistants, provision of ICT, contribute to, and enhance learning opportunities.
- Deciding how the implementation of specific strategies such as flexible or shared timetabling, nurture groups, counselling provision, access to therapy, first day absence response, have enhanced attendance and participation.
- Consideration of how classroom/group organisation has been targeted to ensure that all pupils achieved increased levels of school success.
- Consideration of the school response to pupils through the application of the SEN Code of Practice has improved pupil attainment and how effective communication regarding specific pupil needs has been achieved and is monitored.
- Consideration of how liaison, increased communication and relationships with external agencies has supported and enhanced pupils' access to the curriculum and how this is monitored and improvements targeted.
- Identifying how staff training needs in order to effectively meet the diverse abilities and disabilities of all pupils, including prospective pupils who may require manual handling, signing, personal hygiene support etc, has been identified and supported.
- Identifying pupil peer support mechanisms and the ways that the school has ensured pupils have a voice in decisions that affect them.
- Taking action to ensure that disabled members of the school community are seen in a positive light through publications promoting disability and providing positive role models of adults with disabilities to encourage success and achievement
- Ensuring that action has been undertaken to ensure that parents and carers see themselves as partners in their children's education and are increasingly willing to actively support their children's education.

- Enhancing the positive culture and ethos of the school by undertaking quality marks or other additional intervention to improve the schools ability to include those with disabilities.

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase accessibility for members of the school community with disabilities.

The schools will want to consider and record reflection upon all areas of the physical environment such as:

- Changes to improve access to doors, stairs, toilet, changing facilities, and consideration of the impact of signs, colour schemes, lighting, heating etc.
- Changes outside of the school building e.g. provision of disabled parking etc.
- Management and organisation issues such as maintenance of lights, fire alarms appropriate to those with hearing impairments etc.
- Increased access to and maintenance of, auxiliary aids, ICT apparatus such as computer hardware/software.
- Improvement to the acoustic environment that might include installation of soundfields/hearing loop systems.
- Improvements of storage implications for wheelchairs and other mobility devises.
- Application and progress on capital funding for major access works.

Access to information

Schools are expected to increase access to information to those with disabilities. The schools may wish to decide how this is to be achieved by:

- Informing readers that school published material is available in a selection of formats e.g. Braille, Makaton, audio tapes and identifying how they can access this provision if requested.
- Considering how to increase information accessibility for those who have English as an additional language or other communication impairments, at school meetings etc.
- Identifying how they have considered the readability of information including that provided by the school website, and how it is monitored to ensure accessibility to a wide range of diverse needs and abilities.
- Identifying how textbooks and other pupil information are selected and provided to meet a diversity of pupil need.
- Ensuring the monitoring of effectiveness of adult support to enhance the opportunities for pupils/parents who have difficulties in accessing information.

Monitoring the success of the plan:

Evaluation that may be useful to judge success may include:

- Success in meeting identified targets.
- Changes in physical accessibility of school buildings
- Questionnaires, responses from stakeholders e.g. parents, pupils and staff, indicate increased confidence in the schools ability to promote access to educational opportunities for pupils with disabilities.
- Improved levels of confidence in staff in reducing the obstacles to success for pupils with additional needs.
- Recorded evidence that increased numbers of pupils with disabilities are actively participating in all areas of the school

- Recorded evidence that fewer pupils are being excluded from school opportunities as their needs are being more effectively addressed through the application of strategies and procedures.
- Increased levels of achievement for pupils with disabilities.
- Pupil responses; verbally, pictorially and written that indicate that they feel themselves to be included.
- Ofsted inspections identify higher levels of educational inclusion.

E21C Trust Primary Schools' Plan 2017-2020

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Physical Access	Audit of accessibility of school buildings and grounds. Suggest actions and implement as budget allows.	Consider in particular any ramps needed and signage. Ensure flags on footpaths are in good condition and laid flat	Site accessible	Ongoing plan	
Emergency Access	All pupils and adults to be able to evacuate the building safely in an emergency	Fire escape plan to be reviewed and updated as required and at least annually.	Plan rewritten.	Review Autumn 2018	
Curriculum Access	All students have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.	Monitor planning as part of monitoring schedule and the curriculum as a whole at least annually.	Broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in place	July 2018	
	Pupils have a differentiated curriculum that meets their individual needs.	Following the SEN Policy- SEN students have an IEP/EHC Plan that details pupils' needs (and how to differentiate) with personalised curriculums where appropriate.	Lesson observations report teaching matched to individual needs. The number of satisfactory and good or better teaching is increased.	Ongoing	
	Pupils' access to the curriculum is increased because they attend school more regularly.	See attendance actions in SDP.	Attendance is improving year on year.	Reviews ongoing	

	Pupils' access to the curriculum is increased because there is a reduction in exclusions, individual pupil needs are met, suitable educational provision is provided.	Follow SEN Policy. See SDP.	We are an inclusive school	Review annually	
	Pupils' access to the curriculum is increased through personalisation and differentiation.	All staff are aware of different learning styles and plan and deliver for this in the classroom.	This is monitored through regular observations of lessons both formal and informal.	Ongoing	
	Ensure that disabled pupils can participate in extra-curricular activities, trips and visits	Audit of extra-curricular provision. Minibuses purchased with wheelchair access.	Disabled pupils able to access all extra-curricular activities, trips and visits	By July 2018	
Access to information	Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school makes itself aware of the services available through the LA/external agencies for converting written information into alternative formats. Be aware of parents/carers access needs and will provide support when needed. Website to translate information into different languages.	The school can provide written information in alternative formats.	Ongoing	

	The written information provided to parents/carers is accessible and read.	Current information and invitations sent to all parents is reviewed to judge the language, style, format, and accessibility. School 'house style' audited.	Information is read. Parents/carers feel that school is an approachable supportive institution.	September 2017	
	Written communication to parents/carers includes opportunity to raise access issues with school in advance e.g. at parents' evenings.	School ensures all parents/carers can access school site.	Parents/carers feel that school is an approachable supportive and accessible institution.	September 2017	
Equality and Inclusion	To ensure that the Accessibility Plan becomes an annual agenda item at LGB meetings.	Clerk to Governors to add to list for LGB meetings	Adherence to legislation.	Annually	
	To improve staff awareness of disability issues.	Review staff training needs. Provide training for members of the school community as appropriate.	Whole-school community aware of issues.	On-going	
	To ensure that all policies consider the implications of disability access.	Consider during review of policies.	Policies reflect current legislation.	On-going	
	Follow Single Equality Scheme	As listed in Single Equality Scheme	We are an inclusive school	On-going	

	The pursuit to continually challenge discrimination and harassment.	As listed SEN Policy, Behaviour Policy Monitor implementation of PSHE programme	We are an inclusive school	On-going	
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