



Accessibility Plan

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Downlands Community Primary School

1. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Local Authority, pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school and covers the period from April 2014 – March 2017.
2. We are 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 and with due regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
3. Downlands School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
 - Improve 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.
 - . increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of 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 school 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 the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, 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.
5. Attached are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.
6. We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.
7. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:
 - Curriculum
 - Equal Opportunities and Diversity
 - Staff Development
 - Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
 - Inclusion
 - Special Needs

- Behaviour Management
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Asset Management Plan
 - School Brochure and Mission Statement
 - Teaching and Learning File
8. The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which was originally undertaken by the Local Authority and subsequently updated by the school and remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of the prescribed period of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into following 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 the next prescribed period of the Accessibility Plan
 9. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees includes the due regard for Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010 and its duties.
 10. As curriculum policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added to that on Equality and Diversity. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will contain an item on "having regard to matters relating to Access".
 11. The Web site will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.
 12. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
 13. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents (statutory).
 14. The Plan will be monitored through the Curriculum and the Premises Committees of the Governors.
 15. The school will work in partnership with the local education authority (*and Diocesan Authority, where appropriate*) in developing and implementing this plan and will adopt in principle the "Dorset Accessibility Strategy, Access to Learning".
 16. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Further guidance on the scheme is available on the DRC website: -

www.drc-gb.org/businessandservices/disabilityequalityduty.asp

Reviewed March 2014
Due for Review Nov 17

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Improving the Physical Access at Downlands School

An Access Audit was carried out by Susan Whitlock in November 2014 and a number of recommendations made:

Location	Item to Improve Physical Access	Activity	Timescale	Cost (est) £
External Lighting	Street Lighting	○ (This is not the Schools Responsibility as it is on MOD property) To chase the MOD to replace the two missing Lampposts.	By September 2014	None to School.
Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hatch in Hall ○ Lighting on Fire exit ramp 	○ Roller Shutter to enable easier access for serving food	By December 2014	£500
		○ This is currently sufficient from fire and Health and Safety but school feel it would be beneficial as it can be extremely dark in the winter months.	By December 2014	£250
Fire Exits	○ Key Stage 1 Fire exits all have steps	○ These will need to be looked at if we ever had a child needing wheelchair access.	On Going	

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Improving the Curriculum Access at Downlands School

<u>Target</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Achievement</u>
Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum	Undertake an audit of staff training requirements	All teachers are able to more fully meet the requirements of disabled children's needs with regards to accessing the curriculum	Training delivered as and when needed	Increase in access to the National Curriculum
Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations.	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life-preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available.	This is done on a regular bases for differentiation and should the need arise.	
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements	Ian Denison (Ed Visit Co-ord.) discussed at staff meeting. + SEN re disabilities.	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils	Relevant staff trained when situation arises. Staff aware about classroom organisation	Increase in access to the National Curriculum
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues	Provide training for governors, staff, pupils and parents Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school	Whole school community aware of issues relating to Access	Staff trained when situation arises Epi pen training and Insulin Training Sept 13	Society will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment

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Improving the Delivery of Written Information at Downlands School

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LEA for converting written information into alternative formats.	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	On-going	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it	All school information available for all	More Information on Internet. January 2011 More spoken info available to parents	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Get advice from HVSS on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customized materials.	All school information available for all	This was discussed with COSHIVIC and felt that we had put in place all we could. January 2013	Delivery of school information to pupils & parents with visual difficulties improved.
Raise the awareness of adults working at and for the school on the importance of good communications systems.	Arrange training courses.	Awareness of target group raised	Ongoing due to turnover. This will be done during staff meetings regularly due to turnover staff.	School is more effective in meeting the needs of pupils.