



# Castle Newnham School

TRADITIONAL VALUES, BRIGHT FUTURES, ONE JOURNEY

<b>Policy:</b>	<b>Accessibility Plan 2023 - 2025</b>
Date Reviewed:	22 June 2023
Next Review date:	June 2025
Reviewed by:	IE/CE Governor Board/Federation Principal /SendCo
Type of policy:	Statutory
Location:	School website
Related policies / documents:	SEND policy

# Accessibility Plan 2023 - 2025

## 1. Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The Equality Act 2010 provides a single, consolidated source of discrimination law, covering all the types of discrimination that are unlawful. Under the Equality Act, schools have a duty to make "reasonable adjustments" for people with disabilities (paragraph 4.13)

This Accessibility plan pays due regard to government law, including the Equality Act (2010) and the Children and Families Act (2014) Part 3 which links in to the SEND Code of Practice (2014) (and to past legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995, the SEN and Disability Act 2001).

The Department for Education (DfE) has published advice on the Equality Act, which explains that schools must have an accessibility plan aimed at:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improving the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the following areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act:

- Where something a school does places a disabled pupil at a disadvantage compared to other pupils then the school must take reasonable steps to try to avoid that disadvantage
- Schools will be expected to provide an auxiliary aid or service for a disabled pupil when it would be reasonable to do so and if such an aid would alleviate any substantial disadvantage that the pupil faces in comparison to non-disabled pupils.

Since 2002 the Governing Body of the School has had three key duties towards disabled pupils under part 4 of the DDA.

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for reasons related to their disability
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage including potential adjustments which may be needed in the future
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

The school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. The plan of actions showing how the school will address the priorities over the next 3 years.

The school fully includes all pupils in trips and activities. It is expected that every pupil will join in and make progress both academically and socially and we acknowledge that some pupils may require support to be able to do this.

## **2. Definitions of Disability which we have used to inform our Plan**

You're disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. (Long term meaning more than 12 months).

## **3. Aims of the Plan**

Our school's vision and values help to ensure that:

- All our pupils achieve their full potential.
- We are a fully inclusive school and welcome all pupils regardless of race, ability, language or culture.
- We are equally ambitious for pupils who may have a disability.
- For pupils who have a disability we offer the opportunity to access the full range of opportunities to learn new skills and concepts and to develop their talents.

## **4. The Purpose and Direction of this Plan**

The National Curriculum (2014) is a common entitlement for all pupils. All staff have a duty to ensure that the planning of our curriculum meets the needs of all pupils, this may require modification to programmes of study and methods of delivery. All pupils have full access to additional opportunities that enhance the basic curriculum entitlement. We are committed, in the widest sense, to equality of educational opportunity for all.

We have identified the following priorities for the development of the vision and values which underpin all our work:

- To provide training, as appropriate, to existing staff and with regard to the induction of new staff
- To plan reasonable adjustment to our curriculum and physical environment for pupils with a disability
- To ensure that the policy and plan, along with other appropriate policies, are referred to in all pupil induction / transfer meetings
- To ensure that person centred approaches are applied to the planning of provision for pupils with a disability.

## **5. Information from pupil data and school self-evaluation**

We are a large school mainly serving the Castle and Newnham wards, although a small number of pupils live in other areas of Bedford. We have an increasing multicultural / bilingual/ EAL population and see the successful inclusion of all pupils as vitally important and desirable. The number of children from low income families (FSM) is low. We have a number of pupils with special educational needs or a disability, some of whom have an EHCP for:

- Cognition and learning needs
- Sensory and Physical needs
- Communication and interaction needs
- Social Emotional and Mental Health needs

We maintain a close liaison with all our parents, particularly those listed in the above categories. We also have close links with outside agencies that provide support and advice for the school and many of our families.

Further details of the way in which the School creates increased accessibility to the curriculum for pupils with a disability can be found in the SEND policy, the Local Offer and the SEND Information Report.



## Castle Newnham School

### Accessibility Action Plan 2023 - 2025

Action to be taken / date	Led by	Those involved	Results of action taken
<b>Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum</b>			
<p>SEN pupils to be discussed by SENDCO in order to assess and support their present needs at termly person centred reviews</p> <p>Use of one page profiles across the school.</p> <p>Objectives and targets from EHCPs to be used as working documents for pupils, teachers and TAs.</p>	SENDCO (primary and secondary)	Class Teachers, Parent, TAs dealing with Special Needs, Educational Psychologist, Grey's House, SALT and other outside agencies as appropriate.	<p>Changes to OPPs, ways of working will be made as appropriate including the introduction of person centred approaches on one page profiles.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments to provision will allow full access to the curriculum and physical building.</p>
Pupils with a disability will have equal access to extended schooling.	SENDCO (primary and secondary)	SENDCO, teachers and club leaders	Pupils will be involved in the wider opportunities within the school, including enrichment activities and after-school tournaments.
Provide appropriate social and speech, language and communication support within and the around the school for pupils and training for pupils and staff.	Heads of School and SENDCO (primary and secondary)	Leadership Team and consultation with all staff.	<p>Pupils will be able to communicate better and more in line with their peers or age-related expectations.</p> <p>Pupils will be able to access higher levels of communication</p>

<p>There will be whole school access and training to staff in conjunction with Bedford Borough for the use of an SLCN toolkit and strategies.</p> <p>There will be specific social skills interventions, teaching and practice workshops taught by trained staff to boost social interaction.</p>			<p>than their current baseline levels both regarding curriculum and daily social/ life skills.</p>
<p>Provide a robust cycle of CPD for staff, particularly new staff, on the needs of pupils with a disability.</p>	<p>SENDCO (primary and secondary)</p>	<p>SENDCO and staff</p>	<p>Staff will provide opportunities for all pupils to learn, make progress and engage with activities within the school.</p>
<p><b>Action to be taken / date</b></p>	<p><b>Lead by</b></p>	<p><b>Those involved</b></p>	<p><b>Results of action taken</b></p>
<p><b>Improve the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services</b></p>			
<p>Annual bids for further funding in order to increase access to the building and school grounds and also to allow access to the school curriculum.</p>	<p>Heads of School and SENDCO (primary and secondary)</p>	<p>Leadership Team and consultation with all staff.</p>	<p>Bid submitted by January of each year</p>
<p>All staff will be aware of statutory guidance on manual handling, diabetes and specific health care needs of pupils as detailed in the 2015 policies in line with safeguarding policies.</p>	<p>Heads of School and SENDCO (primary and secondary)</p>	<p>SENDCO and staff</p>	<p>Staff will be able to fully support the physical needs of pupils in line with safeguarding legislation.</p>

<p>Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils</p>
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SEND section of school website.	Heads of School and SENDCO (primary and secondary)	Leadership Team and consultation with all staff.	Up to date information on relevant events for parents and links to outside agencies who provide support for families
Home school, one page profiles, school website, person centred review meetings e-mails, co-production meetings, drop in sessions, coffee mornings, online and in-school bulletins to provide a forum for discussion and an opportunity for the SENDCO and staff to communicate with parents and families of pupils with a disability	SENDCO (primary and secondary)	SENDCO, teachers and TAs	Close links between school and home, families will have a voice in the process of reviewing and designing provision for children with a disability.