



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

Accessibility Plan February 2023 – February 2026

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School has five core values which exemplify our accessibility plan.

1. **Academic Excellence;** a belief in progress for all.
2. **Acquiring Knowledge;** the importance of being an educated person and knowing things.
3. **Social Justice;** providing opportunities for all, regardless of background.
4. **Public Service;** the importance of making a contribution to the school community and wider society.
5. **Diverse Opportunities;** a rounded education that 'opens doors' regardless of location or specialism.

Introduction

The aims of this accessibility plan are to ensure that Durham Johnston Comprehensive School has high aspirations for all of its students including those with disabilities. The school will use best endeavours to provide an environment for all students to participate and achieve their potential in every aspect of the school life. The school also intends to increase accessibility for staff and members of the public with disabilities. The Equality Act 2010 ensures that Schools and Local authorities have to carry out accessibility planning for disabled pupils, in accordance with relevant health and safety standards. Definition of disability according to the Equality Act 2010: A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on the ability to do normal daily activities.

Aims

This accessibility plan outlines Durham Johnston Comprehensive School's commitment to improving accessibility. This plan applies to the curriculum and extra curricular activities

Implementation

The plan focuses on increasing access to the curriculum, improving access to the physical environment, and providing information so that stake holders can access this. As a school we audit these areas annually and will address any areas for development in a timely manner.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Plan will be reviewed in line with the annual cycle of school improvement planning.

1. Increase the extent to which students with additional needs can participate fully in the school curriculum and make accelerated progress

Target	Strategy	By whom	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Training for teachers so that they are more aware of teaching strategies to support learners with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific Learning Difficulties• Autism• Executive Functions differences• Sensory impairments	Undertake an audit of staff training requirements. Provide training for governors, staff, students and parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Whole staff briefings	SLT Outside agencies who currently support pupils: Educational Psychologist, Sensory support	All teachers can fully meet the requirements of disabled student's needs with regards to accessing the curriculum.	Annually updated and reviewed in line with identified school priorities and training needs	Holistic success of pupils. Increased school attendance for students with SEND.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum Leaders and Pastoral Team meetings - Department meetings - Parent groups 	<p>staff, Autism Team</p> <p>SENCO SLT</p>			
<p>All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils.</p> <p>For example, additional staffing in place for trips where a disabled pupil is participating.</p>	<p>Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation.</p> <p>To investigate a bank of staff who can be utilised to support in out of hours events.</p>	SENCO and SLT	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment which comply with all current and future legislative requirements	On going	Increase in access to school activities for all disabled students.
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all students.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual classrooms, where reasonable.	Learning Support team in conjunction with Teaching staff to consider seating plans. Visiting advisory teachers	Students feel calm and settled in lessons.	September 2023	Holistic success of students

<p>Maintain a commitment to a well-trained and qualified Learning Support Team to support all students.</p> <p>Staff to include a visiting Educational Psychologists, visiting Sensory support teachers, visiting cognition and learning team and any other agency as per student need.</p>	<p>To continue to support all student's access to the curriculum through:</p> <p>Learning Support staff training both for targeted support within the classroom.</p> <p>Outside agency support to be engaged using best endeavours, to advise school on the best support methods for individual students.</p>	Governing Body	Staff to have access to a qualified team to consult and to help to deliver education to disabled students.	Annually	Success of all students. Disabled students fully integrated into the school community.
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2. Improve the physical environment of the school to increase access to education for disabled students, all staff members and visitors.

Target	Strategy	By Whom	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Review documentation and assemblies with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils	Take advice from Sensory Support Services about the use of	Learning Support Team	All school information available for all	September 2023	Delivery of school information to pupils, parents

with visual and or hearing impairment. For example: -Use of voice to text, laptops, enlarged texts etc.	alternative formats and IT software to produce customized materials.				and visitors with visual and or hearing difficulties is improved.
For students with social, communication difficulties to be able to express their thoughts and feelings.	Through social communication groups, Library at break and lunch time and daily 1:1 time where pupils can express their thoughts. Autism progression framework used to set and monitor targets where appropriate.	Learning Support Team Autism Team	Inclusion for students with social and communication difficulties.	September 2023	Students with social communication difficulties will feel valued and able to make an even more positive contribution to school life.
For students with sensory differences to feel confident within the school environment	Sensory audits to be completed for school site and for individual students.	Learning Support Team	Increased participation in all areas of school life.	Summer Term 2023	Adaptions made to the physical environment where necessary and

					using best endeavours.
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3. To improve provision of Information for disabled students, parents and staff.

Target	Strategy	By Whom	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Provide handouts, planners, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events in an accessible manner.	<p>Reprographics informed that materials are to be provided in different font size etc. to support pupils</p> <p>To provide interpreters at school events for parents, through the LA EAL team.</p>	Class teachers, Learning Support Team EAL team SLT Sensory Support Team	<p>All school information available to all</p> <p>Parents have the necessary information to be able to support their child's learning.</p> <p>Students can access both in class and extra curricula information easily.</p>	September 2023	Students and parents able to access school information

<p>Provide materials in an easily accessible format for pupils who have dyslexia or difficulties accessing written texts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the use of ICT and alternatives to written texts. • To include exam papers 	<p>PowerPoints with a non-white background and good contrast. Learners using Load2Learn to access texts. Use of reading pens or alternative technology to record or access written material</p>	<p>SLT SENCO Class teachers Learning Support Team</p>	<p>Lesson content easily accessible to all learners</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>All students will become more independent and prepared for adulthood.</p>
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