



Harlow Fields School
Tendring Road
Harlow
Essex CM18 6RN

Head Teacher: Kathleen Faherty
Phone: 01279 423670
Fax: 01279 431412
Email: admin@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.harlowfields.essex.sch.uk

Harlow Fields College
Partridge Road
Harlow
Essex CM18 6FJ

Accessibility Plan 2025 – 2028

Context

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils under Part 4 of the Equality Act 2010:

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.

Harlow Fields School and College operates within a national framework for educational inclusion provided by:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (June 2014)
- Inclusive School (DfES 0774/2001)
- SEN & Disability Act 2001
- Equality Act 2010
- Code of Practice for Schools (Disability Rights Commission)

Our Commitment

At Harlow Fields School and College, we are committed to ensuring that:

- **Individual Education Plans (IEPs):** All pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place before admission, ensuring our curriculum and environment are accessible to all learners. We address barriers to learning through multi-agency collaboration and clear planning, with regular reviews of these plans.

- **Total Communication Environment:** We embrace a Total Communication approach, providing information in various ways tailored to individual needs. This includes the use of both high-tech and low-tech resources to support effective communication.
- **Classroom Adaptations:** Each classroom environment is adapted to meet the specific needs of individual pupils, promoting independence in their learning pathways. Consistent daily routines are embedded, helping pupils understand what is happening now and what will happen next.
- **Specialist Facilities:** Our school includes accessible specialist spaces such as a hydrotherapy pool, sensory integration rooms, and a sensory room, all designed to support the diverse needs of our pupils.
- **Physical Accessibility:** The school is predominantly on a single level, with minimal steps. Where steps exist, lifts and ramps are provided to ensure full accessibility to all areas of the school.
- **Curriculum Design:** Our curriculum is specifically designed to meet the needs of pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD). We focus on placing pupils at the centre of their learning, allowing staff to identify and address barriers as they arise.
- **Multi-Agency Collaboration:** We value and prioritise multi-agency working, collaborating with professionals involved in our pupils' lives to ensure ongoing assessment and removal of barriers to learning.

Monitoring and Review

The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed regularly, with annual reports provided to the Governing Body to ensure transparency and accountability in our commitment to accessibility for all pupils.