



# **Bellingham Partnership of Schools**

## **Accessibility plan**

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## **Introduction:**

The purpose of this plan is to show how Bellingham Middle School intends over time to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors.

## **Legal Background**

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act.

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and these are also published on the school website.

## **Objectives**

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

1. Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as any other pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equality 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;
2. Improve and maintain 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 within a reasonable timeframe;

3. Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

## **Contextual Information**

The school building is very accessible, and has accessible facilities, including ramps, hoists, lifts and adaptations.

The school supports children with a wide range of disabilities, which include: moderate learning difficulties, communication difficulties, ASD/ADHD, behaviour, anxiety, attachment, emotional and social difficulties and children with physical disabilities.

## **Training**

Appropriate training has been provided for staff and all First Aid certificates are kept up to date. The school has a current and compliant policy for managing medical conditions in school.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. What follows is a table of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- Head Teacher
- SENDCo
- Schools' Equalities Coordinator from Northumberland County Council
- The governing body

We welcome and will consider any suggestions and practical improvements that are suggested to us by disabled service users and their families.

The action plans that follow show how the school will address the priorities identified and resource any changes that need to be implemented.

### Increasing access to the curriculum for disabled pupils

Improving teaching and learning lies at the heart of the school's work. Through self review and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), we aim to enhance staff knowledge, skills and understanding to promote excellent teaching and learning for all children.

Target	Strategy	Staff responsible	Success criteria
<p>Ensure that all staff are aware of the needs of individual children with SEN or disability when planning and delivering the curriculum. The SENCo's implementation of the Graduated Approach ensures that cycles of support are being offered and providing the right support at the right time</p>	<p>Maintain Individual EHCPs and PEPs and share information with other agencies involved with the child. Ensure that assessment always outlines 'next learning steps'</p>	<p>Staff and SENCo</p>	<p>Information sharing supports staff to create the best inclusive environment for every child with SEND. Parents understand the role they can play in supporting development. Impact on the number of behavioural incidents.</p>

<p>Ensure that all staff have access to and awareness of the range of services and cycles of specialist support available to support children and young people. This includes those connected with emotional health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Ensure that local directories, referral routes and providers are familiar to all staff. Develop a clear referral route for emotional wellbeing issues to guide prompt referrals to available interventions and support organisations</p>	<p>Head Teacher SENCo Pastoral lead</p>	<p>Improved access to prompt, specialist cycles of support for children and their families. Barriers to emotional health and wellbeing can be identified and addressed.</p>
<p>Ensure that all children with medical conditions are well supported within school, so that they can access the curriculum.</p>	<p>Ensure that all staff and governors are familiar with and follow the school's current policy for managing medical conditions in school.</p>	<p>Head Teacher SENCO All staff Ongoing</p>	<p>The principles of the guidance are evident in practice. Family-school contact ensures that school addresses medical needs. Staff training is updated as required.</p>

### **Improving access to the physical environment of the school**

Our site is extensive but all on one level and very well adapted for people with physical and sensory disabilities. It remains a priority to continue to improve the physical environment of the school to increase the opportunities disabled users and visitors may take advantage of the facilities we have, both indoors and outdoors. We have a wide range of equipment and resources available for day to day use. We work closely with parents to make the necessary adaptations for any children with disabilities who attend school. We keep resource provision under constant review.

<b>Target</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>
<p>Developing the school environment to have fewer sensory distractions and to be an environment where ASD or neuro divergent children feel well supported</p>	<p>Visual timetables displayed in every classroom, 'stripped back' displays in school, quiet areas in every classroom, looking for solutions to the loud bells that punctuate lesson times.</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>Staff and pupils are better attuned to behavioural triggers and all learners have what they need to be able to thrive in the purposeful school environment.</p>

## Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils

This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. Examples might include textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable timeframe. The school is continuously developing awareness of agencies and sources of materials to be able to make information more accessible as required.

Target	Strategy	Staff responsible	Success criteria
<p>Improve the availability of written material in alternative formats when specifically requested or when likely to make the curriculum more accessible to a child with a learning or physical disability.</p>	<p>The school will continuously develop understanding and awareness of the standards and services which can be used. For example, sharing audio files, using pictograms and graphics to aid understanding Use of coloured overlays</p>	<p>SENCo/All staff As required</p>	<p>Staff will be aware of web based and physical resources and organisations that can provide guidance about information in different languages and formats</p>
<p>Use best practice and guidance in making printed documentation accessible to children (see</p>	<p>Reasonable adjustments to texts are made as appropriate</p>	<p>All staff Ongoing.</p>	<p>The accessibility best practice guidance and strategies we have been trained to use are in use.</p>

<p>Ensuring that the language used in school is the most respectful and accurate when we describe conditions, identity or disability</p>	<p>Planning ahead and ensuring that partners such as supply staff or visitors to school are well informed in advance</p>	<p>All staff/ongoing</p>	<p>A respectful school environment where all children feel safe and supported. Modelling best inclusive practice to our children and young people</p>
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## Appendix 1:

Making printed information accessible.

Resources and guidance:

[Accessible Communication Formats](#) (Government guidance) [Creating accessible documents factsheet](#) (Abilitynet)

[Abilities and assistive technology](#) (UK Association for Accessible Formats)

[The Sensory Trust information sheet on clear and large print Am I making myself clear?](#) (Mencap's guidelines for accessible writing) [Dyslexia Style Guide](#) (British Dyslexia Association)

[Communication friendly environments](#) (from the Communication Trust)

[Custom eyes](#) Schools and individuals can join the scheme which can make (at RRP) large print tailor made books.