

# **Cockton Hill Infants' School Accessibility Plan 2022-2025**



**Headteacher: Tom Cuthbertson**  
**Chair of Governors: Bob Woods**

Date: February 2023

Date for review: February 2025

## Accessibility Plan 2022-2025

Here at Cockton Hill Infants' School we are aware that we have a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and person who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

With this in mind this Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with stake holders and covers the period from February 2022 – February 2025.

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improved awareness of **Equality and Inclusion**.
- Improve access to **the physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school 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 fail to do this they are in breach of Equality Act 2010). This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and culture activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improved 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.

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.

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.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum Policies
- Disability and Equality Policy
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- Special Needs
- Behaviour Management
- School Improvement Plan
- School Brochure and Mission Statement
- Teaching Learning Files

The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly by the Local Authority. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this first Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of the first three-year plan.

## Accessibility Plan 2022-2025

### Improving awareness of Equality and Inclusion

As detailed in the accessibility plan introduction, the fundamental principles of Equality within our school have been applied during the implementation of this policy.

<b>Equality</b>			
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
Accessibility Plan and Equality statement to become an annual agenda item at Governors meetings.	Headteacher to ensure that this is added to School Governors and Children's School Council once a year.	Annually	Current legislation will be adhered to.
Training to raise awareness of equality/disability issues.	Discuss perception of issues with staff/governors to determine the current status of school. Provide training for governors, staff, pupils and parents where required.	Staff meetings As required	Whole school community will be aware of issues relating to access.
Continue to review the SEND Policy on a regular basis	Policy to be evaluated by the SENCO in consultation with staff and governors.	Annually	Staff and governors are aware of legislation.

## 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 handouts, 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.

In planning to make written information available to disabled pupils we will need to establish the current level of need and be able to respond to changes in the range of need. The school will need to identify agencies and source of such support and materials to make the provision available when it is required. The school ICT infrastructure will enable us to access a range of materials supportive to need.

<b>Written information</b>			
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
Make available school brochures, newsletters and other information and in materials, for parents/carers in alternative formats (when needed).	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it. The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA for converting written information into alternative formats.	Ongoing	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual formats.
Written material will be made available in alternative languages (when needed).	The school will seek to translate key information when it is required.	As required	School information will be available for all.
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Advice from HVSS on alternative formats and use of ICT software to produce customised materials.	As required	Delivery of school information to pupil and parents/carers with visual impairments.
To continue improving communication for any hearing impaired member for the school community.	Sign language interpreter to be arranged for hearing impaired member of the school community	Ongoing	Pupils, parents and visitors who are hearing impaired will be better able to access verbal information

## Improving access to the physical environment of the school

Cockton Hill Infants' School is continuing to grow and develop. We have a wide range equipment and resources available for day to day use. We keep resource provision under constant review. The schools Improvement Planning process is the vehicle for considering such needs on an annual basis.

Physical Environment			
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Desired Outcome
Accessible car park	Reserved bay when required – needs notice	Ongoing	Sufficient disabled parking
Accessible toilets	To provide access to a unisex toilet for disabled pupils and staff	Complete – one of main corridor	Staff and children have access to toilet and washroom facilities in the main area of the school building
Ensure access to reception area to all	Access to reception area has been improved to allow entry for wheelchair users	Complete Wheelchair are easily accessible through main door.	Disabled parents, carers and visitors feel more welcome.
Ensure signage and external access is appropriate for visually impaired people.	New signs	Completed	Visually impaired people feel safe around school.
Ensure all disabled pupils can be evacuated safely	Put in place Personal emergency Evacuation Plans for staff and pupils with difficulties.	As required	All disabled staff and pupils working alongside are safe in the event of a fire.
Ensure equality of access to IT equipment	If required, provide alternative equipment in place to access all hardware. If required liaise with VI/HO on information with regard to the visual impaired and hearing impaired pupils	Ongoing and as required	Hardware and software to meet the needs of children as appropriate
Ensure hearing equipment in classrooms to support hearing impaired	Seek support for LA hearing impairment team on the appropriate equipment	When needed	All children have access to the equipment
Ensure that all areas of school building are accessible for all children and adults and to continue to improve the access of the physical environment for all	Headteacher and Health and Safety officer to audit accessibility of school buildings as part of H&S Audit and report findings to Governors.  SENCO to liaise with outside agencies e.g. Occupation Therapy to ensure individual pupil access needs are being met as required	<b>Medium Term</b> Actions as a result of the H&S audit April 2022 to be implemented  <b>Long Term</b> To be reviewed annually	
To ensure any recently built and future new build projects are physically accessible to all	H&S Officer appointed will ensure compliance with building regulations accessibility	As required	Inspected during accessibility audit. reviewed as new projects are planned.

## Improving access to the school curriculum

At Cockton Hill Infants' School we will continue to review and adapt the school curriculum as necessary depending on the individual needs of our pupils. The Senior Leadership team work alongside the SENCO, staff and parents to ensure all children are encouraged to reach their full potential, in all areas of school.

Curriculum			
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Des
All out of school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils.	Review out of school provision to ensure compliance with legislation	As required	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils.
Ensure staff are aware of disabled children curriculum access	Set up a system of individual access plans for disabled pupils when required. EHCP and SEN Support plans. Information sharing with all agencies involved with the child, review meeting etc.	As required	All staff are aware of individual needs.
Use ICT to support learning	Make sure software installed where needed	As required	Wider use of SEN resources in classrooms
All educational visits to be accessible to all	Develop guidance for staff on making trips accessible. Ensure each new venue is vetted for appropriateness	As required	All pupils in school able to access all educational visits and take part in a range of activities.
Review PE curriculum to ensure PE is accessible to all	Gather information on accessible PE and disability sports	As required	All children have access to PE and be able to excel
Continue training for teachers and support staff on different aspects of SEN including differentiation when required	SENCO to review the needs of children with specific issues, provide all relevant training according to staff needs CPD will be planned by SLT each term in response to needs.	Ongoing	All staff training and confident with issues linked with accessibility and inclusivity with regards to accessing the curriculum. We recognise that this is an ongoing process and the needs and expertise will change.
Classrooms are optimally organised and appropriate additional equipment is provided to promote the participation and independence of all pupil and adults alike. When applicable.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and specialist equipment to support the learning process in individual classes according to the need	Ongoing	Lessons will start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils.
Access arrangements to meet individual needs when taking tests etc. will be applied for support provided when required.	SENCO and assessment coordinator will ensure appropriate testing and reports are provided in order to apply for access arrangements.	Ongoing	All pupils will have their individual needs met and any barriers to achieving their full potential will be removed.