

Slaley First School

Accessibility Policy & Plan

Rationale:

Slaley First School has a duty to ensure:

- That pupils with disabilities and learning needs can fully participate in the school curriculum
- The physical environment of the school supports and increases the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of all school services
- That physical and learning environments can be reasonably accessed by disabled pupils to meet their needs

Aims

This plan reflects the requirement for an Access Plan under current equalities legislation. The duty under the Equality Act 2010 is that schools collect and publish equality information, and publish equalities objectives. This duty has existed since April 2012.

However, guidance makes it very clear that schools continue to have a duty to produce an Access Plan which must be implemented. Schools' plans should reflect their intention to :

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

- To make every child feel welcome
- To value all pupils equally
- To have high expectations of all pupils and work to remove barriers to learning and participation

A disabled pupil can be discriminated against on two ways:

1. By less favourable treatment.
 2. By the School failing to make a 'reasonable adjustment'. Schools may be guilty of discrimination if they fail to take reasonable steps which lead to disabled pupils and prospective pupils being placed at a 'substantial disadvantage' compared to non-disabled pupils.
 3. The school will continue to review practice and use the expertise and support provided through the L.A.
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Action Planning

- The school takes into account the need for accessibility when planning for individual pupils and adults within the building.
- LA funding and advice for major adjustments would be sought.
- The S.E.N co-ordinator Mrs R. O' Neill and the Governor for S.E.N would be involved with particular improvements and monitoring.

Appendix A Identifying Barriers to Access - Curriculum

Question	Yes	No	Action/Comment
Can teachers and support staff receiving training to teach and support disabled pupils?	✓		Where applicable. Advice on training and further support available through L.A.
Are classrooms optimally organised for disabled pupils?			<i>Currently</i> meets all pupils' needs and L.A and Governors <i>aware</i> adaptations would be dealt with as relevant through planned work.
Do lessons provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve?	✓		
Are lessons responsive to pupil diversity?	✓		
Do lessons involve work to be done by individuals, pairs, groups and the whole class?	✓		
Are all pupils encouraged to take part in music, drama and physical activities?	✓		
Do staff recognise and allow for the mental effort expended by able and disabled pupils, for example using alternative methods to communicate?	✓		
Do staff allow for the additional time required by some pupils to use equipment in practical work?	✓		
Do staff provide alternative ways of giving access to experience or understanding for pupils who cannot engage in particular activities, for example some forms of exercise in physical education, aspects of core curriculum?	✓		Adaptations for learning are used
Is there access to appropriate computer technology for pupils with disabilities?	✓		Further support would be identified and requested for particular needs.
Are school visits made accessible to all pupils irrespective of attainment or impairment?	✓		Includes communication with parents as to their wishes and judgements about particular activities.
Are there high expectations of all pupils?	✓		
Do staff seek to remove all barriers to learning and participation?	✓		

Appendix B Identifying Barriers to Access - Premises

Question	Yes	No	Action/Comment
Does the size and layout of areas – including all academic, play, classrooms, the hall/ dining area, library, indoor and outdoor facilities, playgrounds and rooms allow access for all pupils or members of staff?		✓	The LA have reviewed the school and jointly <i>identified areas</i> which would need alteration relevant to specific learning disabilities should they arise e.g.: <i>classrooms, toilets, entrances.</i>
Can pupils who use wheelchairs move around the school without experiencing barriers to access such as those caused by doorways, steps and stairs, toilet facilities?		✓	<i>The LA reviewed the school. We have identified areas which would need alteration relevant to specific learning disabilities should they arise. E.g. Funding for ramp access via K.S 2 door and disabled toilet in Pre-School Unit already applied for and consultation undertaken.</i>
Are pathways of travel around the site and parking arrangements safe, routes logical and well signed?			<i>Issues, kerbs and steps requiring ramps, doorways.</i>
Are emergency and evacuation systems set up to inform all pupils, including pupils with SEN and disability; including alarms with both visual and auditory components?	✓		
Are non-visual guides used, to assist people to use buildings e.g. tactile buttons?		✓	<i>To be addressed</i>
Could any of the decor or signage be considered to be confusing or disorientating for disabled pupils with visual impairment, autism or epilepsy?			<i>Requires further evaluation from L.A</i>
Are areas to which pupils should have access well lit?	✓		
Are steps made to reduce background noise for hearing impaired pupils such as considering a room's acoustics, noisy equipment?		✓	<i>This will be done as appropriate</i>
Is furniture and equipment selected, adjusted and located appropriately?	✓		This is organised in K.S 1 and hall according to pupil need.
Is the equipment in the accessible toilet properly installed and accessible?			<i>This will be improved as appropriate. Adult toilet has some adaptations.</i>

September 2018

Review and update – every three years.