



Thorpe Primary School

Accessibility Plan

November 2020

Reviewed by LGB: November 2020
Date of Next Review: November 2022



***The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children
(United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child Article 3)***

As a Rights Respecting School, we believe that all children have the right to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion or ability (Article 2). Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support (Article 23).

Purpose of the Plan

This plan shows how Thorpe Primary School intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors.

We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

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

Definition of disability

The definition of disability under the law is a wide one. Thorpe Primary school understands a disabled person to be someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

The definition includes people with a hearing or visual impairment, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, mental health issues and incontinence. People with ADHD, autistic spectrum Disorder, Downs Syndrome and Hydrocephalus are included. Medical conditions such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, diabetes, cancer, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, sickle cell anaemia and HIV are deemed disabilities. Facial disfigurement, severe dyslexia, gross obesity and diagnosed eating disorders are all included.

If a person has been disabled in the past (for example, cancer recoverees and people with a history of mental illness) they are still covered by the legislation for the rest of their life.

Objectives

Thorpe Primary School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant and timely actions to:

- 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 fails to do this they are in breach of duties under the Equalities 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;
- improve 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;
- improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include handouts, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

Linked policies

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

- Curriculum Policy
- Equality Duty and Objectives
- Health & Safety Policy (including off-site safety)
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- School Development Plan
- School Prospectus
- School Complaints procedure

Monitoring

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Local Governing Body.

The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.