



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Statement of General Policy

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies, including schools, to actively promote disability equality and to make reasonable adjustments for students and visitors with a disability.

Great Missenden C of E Combined School is committed to promoting the elimination of harassment of disabled people, positive attitudes and encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life.

The school site presents a number of difficulties for physical access as the buildings pre-date current expectations for public buildings. Some areas of the site remain a less than optimum location for students, staff and visitors requiring full accessibility assistance. Nevertheless, substantial improvements can be considered, the aims of which can be summarised as:

- To improve the physical access for students and adults with disabilities
- To increase the extent to which students with disabilities can participate fully in the curriculum and additional activities
- To address the diverse learning needs of students with respect to the learning environment and educational services
- Supply information in a way that is accessible to all and takes into consideration any preferences expressed with regard to large print documents or audio file.

Strategies:

Integration - the plan for accessibility overlaps with activity in other areas. Some of these are already in place and in particular those in relation to SEND and EAL.

Curriculum – Great Missenden C of E Combined School actively promotes positive attitudes to all individuals regardless of race, gender, disability or age through all that we do but specifically through the delivery of the PSHE curriculum, assemblies, the annual Diversity Week and our school values.

Inspections - regular inspections of the premises are in place, which include consideration of any matters that are detrimental to health and safety. This will include any accessibility deterioration.

Building Works – as building work and developments of the site are undertaken accessibility will always be considered. Any new additions to the school buildings must be accessible for students and adults with physical disability or sensory impairment.

Anticipation – consultation is in place with other schools, parents and pupils to ensure that individuals with particular needs are identified sufficiently early to enable actions, as far as they can be, to be put in place. This could include class location planning to minimise/eliminate limitations that accessibility restraints might otherwise cause.

Physical Planning:

Stairs

The school has a considerable number of stairs at frequent intervals. Some parts of the existing school building are limited by stair access and in these cases the installation of lifts is not feasible. In these situations curriculum resources and rooms available are such that thoughtful allocation of the accessible rooms on the timetable will facilitate access.

A ramp allows wheel chair access to the main reception area and hall but access remains restricted to some areas.

Lighting

Existing classrooms do not always meet the current standards required for those with visual impairment. Where refurbishment work is planned, lighting is upgraded as part of the work wherever possible.

Doors

Generally door widths are not large enough to accommodate wheelchair users and swing doors to facilitate fire prevention may be hazardous. It is not possible to enable wider access to wheelchair users without major rebuilding of the existing school building and this level of capital investment is not feasible.

Corridors

Generally corridors are not wide enough to safely accommodate wheel chair users. It is not possible to enable wider access to wheelchair users without major rebuilding of the existing school building.

Toilet Facilities

We do not currently have a disabled toilet facility.

Travel Arrangements

Disabled parking can be arranged in an appropriate space in Car Park One for any visitors who require this facility.

Equipment

Some specialised equipment is available within the school but as this is specific to individual need, cost makes it inappropriate to hold stocks of such equipment. The school will obtain appropriate equipment as required this may include:

Special desks/chairs

Computer equipment/software

Science and technology equipment

Adaptable desks and chairs

Audits

To ensure Great Missenden C of E Combined School continues to move in the right direction annual audits should be undertaken by the Premises Manager and Headteacher as part of the school's termly Health and safety inspections.

This policy was written by: Caroline Taylor

Date: July 2014

This policy is due to be reviewed by July 2015