



Wirksworth Junior School

Accessibility Plan

Last updated: June 2024

Version Control:

V1.0	Updated Plan Produced	October 2021	B Southam
V2.0	Updated and tasks set for staff	January 2022	Office staff
V2.1	Shared and reviewed with governor	21.1.22	IW and JG
V2.2	Shared at the resources meeting and updated and reviewed	17.3.23	IW and resources committee
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Approved:

November 2021	Resources	
March 2023	Resources committee	Stuart Archer

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Aims of the Accessibility Plan

This plan outlines how [Wirksworth Junior School](#) aims to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the curriculum, physical environment and information).

A person is regarded as having a disability under the Act where they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This plan aims to:

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

The above aims will be delivered within a reasonable timeframe, and in ways which are determined after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the views of parents and pupils. In the preparation of an accessibility strategy, the LA must have regard to the need to allocate adequate resources in the implementation of this strategy.

The governing board also recognises its responsibilities towards employees with disabilities and will:

- Monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with equal opportunities.
- Provide appropriate support and provision for employees with disabilities to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively without barriers.
- Undertake reasonable adjustments to enable staff to access the workplace.

The plan will be resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised in consultation with:

- Pupils' parents.
- The headteacher and other relevant members of staff.
- Governors.
- External partners.

This plan is reviewed [every three years](#) to take into account the changing needs of the school and its pupils. The plan is also reviewed where the school has undergone a refurbishment.

The Accessibility Audit

The governing board will undertake an **annual** Accessibility Audit. The audit will cover the following three areas:

- **Access to the curriculum** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to the physical environment** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the physical environment on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to information** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access information on an equal basis with their peers.

When conducting the audit, the governing board will consider all kinds of disabilities and impairments, including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Ambulatory disabilities** – this includes pupils who use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- **Dexterity disabilities** – this includes those whose everyday manual handling of objects and fixtures may be impaired
- **Visual disabilities** – this includes those with visual impairments and sensitivities
- **Auditory disabilities** – this includes those with hearing impairments and sensitivities
- **Comprehension** – this includes hidden disabilities, such as autism and dyslexia

The findings from the audit will be used to identify short-, medium- and long-term actions to address specific gaps and improve access.

All actions will be carried out in a reasonable timeframe, and after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the preferences of parents. The actions that will be undertaken are detailed in the following sections of this document.

Planning duty 1: Curriculum

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review
Short term	School does not offer a range of resources for pupils with sensory needs	SENDCO to audit resources and share these with staff.	SENDCO (HT)	By 1 st April 2022	Staff are aware of sensory resources they can use with pupils with these additional needs.	April 2022- completed and shared with staff
Medium term	Parents do not feel communication is good with their pupils sensory and special needs	SENDCO survey parents on communication and how to improve this.	SENDCO (HT)	End of Spring term 2022	In surveys, parents with SEND pupils say communication is good.	April 2022. Completed and ongoing. Parent survey in May 2024 shared that all 100% parents of SEND were happy with the support offered.
	Parents views are not gained on accessibility to the curriculum and used effectively to support good teaching practise.	SENDCO to gain views of the parents on how they can support their child's sensory needs and speak with Autism outreach	SENDCO (HT)	End of Spring term 2022	The school is gaining parents views and using this to help SEND pupils access the curriculum.	April 2022 Completed March 23
Long term	Teaching assistants not trained in supporting pupils' access to the maths curriculum	Monitor and observe teaching assistants supporting pupils in the classroom.	SENDCO (HT)	End of : Spring term 2022 Summer Term 2022 Autumn term 2022	Teaching assistants supporting pupils well in the class to access the maths curriculum	April 2022 July 2022 January 2023. TAs attended maths

		Maths hub training given and training on scaffolding and precision teaching				<i>training. New TAs to be sent on training in new academic year</i>
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Planning duty 2: Physical environment – see the External Access Audit Plan

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review
Short term	Egress routes are not contrasted and visually impaired people cannot easily enter and exit school safely.	Caretaker to paint Egress routes a contrasting colour	Caretaker DE	End of Spring term 2022	Egress routes are contrasted to support people with visual impairments safely entering and exiting the school.	April 2022 Completed September 23
	The fire exit door from the hall to the carpark does not have a ramp.	Contact with Dave Newbrough to identify if this needs to be a fire exit as we do not use this in our evacuation plans	Headteacher and DCC Health and Safety- Dave Newborough	End of January 2024	Fire exit is safe for everyone to use if needed.	April 2025
	The flooring within Main Hall has a slight shine in certain spots which could make people with impaired vision slightly apprehensive as it could appear to be wet.	With the new instalment of the hall floor ensure there is no shine to the new surface of the hall floor, which complies with planning permission.	IW, DCC, Trevor Steed	July 2022	Hall floor has been installed and does not shine to appear wet. Those who are visually impaired can walk safely on the floor.	January 2023- delayed until September 2023. Completed Feb 2024

	Cars parking on the path so wheel chair and pushchair users cannot access the site safely.	Leaflets placed on cars to discourage parking on path.	IW	1 st February 2022	Cars are no longer parking on the path so pushchairs and wheelchair users can use the path safely.	April 2022 July 2022 January 2023 Completed but needs regular monitoring
	Alarm cords not long enough to be used in the disabled toilets	Caretaker to measure cords and ensure they are the correct length. If not look to purchase cords and have these fitted	Caretakers and Office staff.	End of Spring 2022	Alarm cords are long enough to be used and comply with regulations BS8300	April 2022 Completed
Medium term	Hand rails do not stand out for use and are too cold to touch in cold weather	Paint hand rails with well contrasted nylon.	SLT/SBO/Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Hand rails can be touched in cold weather.	January 2023- cannot find nylon to apply to handrails
	There are no chairs with armrests provided within the Main Hall.	Costings of chairs with armrests to be used across school.	SBA/SB	End of Summer term 2024	Chairs purchased with armrests.	January 2023- to be purchased after the reception ceiling completed in September 23

	There is a lack of signage to indicate where the toilets are located, there is no tactile or Braille signage provided on the toilet doors.	Costings for signs to be sought for around school. Planning permission to be look at for the outside of the building	SBA/ SB	End of Summer term 2025	Cost for signs sought. Signs placed inside school and planning permission for outside of school in process.	July 2025
	Wheel chair users cannot access Pluto class.	Contact gardener to put decking in place through the fire door to the classroom	Caretaker and gardener.	By September 2022	Access for wheelchair users can be made to Pluto class	January 2023- will not be using this block from September 23
	Access to the pond would be difficult as the gradient is too sharp.	Caretaker/gardener to reduce the gradient into the-gated pond area.	SBA/Gardener	By September	Access to pond area is easier because the gradient is smaller	January 2025
	The accessible WC within the Top Block has fittings and fixtures which are the same colour as the wall resulting in a lack of colour contrast. There is no mirror provision.	Caretaker to paint fittings a different colour.	Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Fixture and fittings standing out in the disabled toilet.	January 2023 will not be using this block from September 23
	The accessible WC within the Top Block has a compliant door lock however there is no grab rail to the inner face of the entrance.	Caretaker to fit a grab rail to toilet door.	Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Grab rail fitted to disabled toilet.	July 2022- will not be using this block from September 23

	The external steps on route to the Top Block do not have suitable colour contrast provided to the edge of the step nosings.	Bright colour contrast needs to be painted to the edge of the step nosings to clearly highlight their presence. Permanently contrasting material 55mm wide on both the tread and the riser.	Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Steps can be seen.	July 2022 Completed
	Internal steps do not have suitable colour contrast provided to the edge of the step nosing	New contrasting nosing to be applied to steps.	Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Step nosing stands out from steps	July 2022 Completed
	External step to the kitchen does not have a suitable colour contract provided to the edge of the step nosing	New contrasting nosing to be applied to steps.	Caretaker DE	End of Summer term 2022	Step nosing stands out from steps	July 2022 Completed
	WCs do not have lever style or sensor operated taps to aid people with dexterity impairments. Because some of the taps are quite dated they can be very stiff to turn on/off.	New sensor taps to be installed	SBO/BS	April 2022	New taps fitted which aid people with dexterity impairments.	July 2022 Completed
	Doors to top block do not have glass visual panel to be able to open safely	Install safety glass in doors in the top block	Caretaker DE	September 2022	Doors have glass fitted into them so they can be opened safely	January 2023- will not be using this block from

						September 23
Long term	There is no induction loop to accommodate hearing aid users who struggle when there is background noise.	Investigate funding and costing through the NHS for an induction loop in school	SBO/BS	January 2025	Costings of induction loop sought	January 2025
	Entrance gates do not suitably colour contrast and there is no contrast to the controls to aid people with impaired vision.	BS when updating gates to ensure there is a colour contrast.	SBO/BS	January 2025	Gates installed and colour is contrasted to aid people with impaired vision.	January 2025
	The gradient to top block maybe hard to navigate for those with ambulant disabilities because of no handrail.	Costings of handrails to be sought for access to top block	SBO/BS	January 2026	Staff, visitors or pupils with ambulant disabilities can access top block safely.	January 2026

Planning duty 3: Information

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review
Short term	Visitors with visual impairments or using wheel chairs are unaware of the gradient of the school site and cannot access the school	Website updated with how to arrive and access the school.	SBA/ JW	April 2022	Those who are visually impaired or use wheel chairs can plan access to the school site before making a journey.	April 2022 Completed
	Those who are visually impaired can not read the display boards and notices	Learning environment display to be updated with staff to ensure all displays are accessible to those who are visually impaired.	All staff	Summer term 2022	Displays are readable by all.	January 2023 Not applicable as no visually impaired students however staff are aware to complete this if necessary.
	If an Emergency call has been made from the disabled toilets, staff/ pupils would be unsure what actions to take	Discuss actions to take in a staff meeting and share in a briefing. Information to be shared with children in assembly.	All staff and pupils	26.1.22 2.2.22 By February shared with children	Everyone knows how to respond to an Emergency call from the disabled toilets.	April 2022 Completed

	Pupils who have minor injuries or broken bones do not have clear written egress plans in place	PEP forms to be shared with staff and their expectations that these needed to be completed as soon as child arrives in school. Same expectations shared with parents.	All staff and parents	Shared in briefing 17.1.23 Shared with parents on the February 22 newsletter	PEPs are completed for staff and pupils to ensure there is clear egress routes in place to keep them safe during temporary/minor injuries	April 2022 Completed-ongoing reminders to complete an Egress Plan
	Notices and signs are positioned on the glass of the main entrance which partially obscures the view into the building causing a potential collision hazard.	Signs are placed on the door that is not used.	JW/ SB/BS	February 2022	The door into school is clear to avoid potential collisions.	April 2022 Completed
Long term	School website is not accessible to children with SEND	Audit of website and discuss with primarysite how to make the site more accessible	JW and HT	Autumn 2021	Website is fully accessible	Spring 2022 Completed