

Weatherhead High School

Accessibility Plan

1. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Local Authority, pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. This document replaces the previous three year plan (2010-2013) and becomes effective from September 2015.
2. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
3. Weatherhead plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
 - 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.
 - 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 the DDA). 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 aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
 - Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:
 - Curriculum
 - Equal Opportunities and Diversity
 - Staff Development

- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- Inclusion
- Special Needs
- Behaviour Management
- School Development Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- School Prospectus and School Vision
- Teaching and Learning File

7. 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 Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each first three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.
8. As curriculum policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added to that on Equality and Diversity. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will contain an item on "having regard to matters relating to Access".
9. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
10. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
11. The Plan will be monitored through the Curriculum and the Premises Committees of the Governors.
12. The school will work in partnership with the local education authority in developing and implementing this plan.
13. The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

Weatherhead High School Accessibility Plan 2015-2016
Improving the Physical Access of the School

An Access Audit was carried out in the autumn term and a number of recommendations made:

Item	Activity	Timescale
Doors from PE changing rooms	Replace doors to lighter weight whilst complying with Fire regulations	Discussions to be held with WSSL/LA
Accessible toilet	To combine an accessible toilet in the main pupil toilet blocks – Blocks B & C	Discussions to be held with WSSL/LA
Medical Room	Physiotherapy and diabetics	
Provision of a lift to access the mezzanine	Lift to LRC	Discussions to be held with WSSL/LA

Costs of the above would be determined by Wirral Schools' Services Ltd on submission of an Annual Variation Request (AVR)

Weatherhead already have the following in place:

Accessible car parking
 Dropped kerbs by disabled parking bays at main entrance
 Accessible toilets
 Provision of lifts to access the upper floors of the building
 Induction loop for Interview rooms
 Evac chairs for use in the event of a fire evacuation
 Minibus conversion for wheelchair access
 Reception counter at adequate height to accommodate wheelchair users
 Nurse available – 4 days a week in a purpose built room

Personal lift keys for students with difficulties
 Parents' Evenings held on one floor for ease of access
 Annual training on diabetes
 Annual training on anaphalaxia
 Vision support room to assist a student who is registered blind
 HLTA appointed with overall responsibility for students with dyslexia
 Transition Manager and Learning Mentor working with our most vulnerable younger students

Weatherhead High School Accessibility Plan 2015-2016
Improving the Curriculum Access at the School

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum	Undertake an audit of staff training requirements	All teachers are able to more fully meet the requirements of disabled children's needs with regard to accessing the curriculum	On-going	Increase in access to the National Curriculum
	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life-preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available.	On-going	
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure that participation of the whole range of pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements	On-going	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils	On-going	Increase in access to the National Curriculum
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues	Provide training for governors, staff, pupils and parents. Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school	Whole school community aware of issues relating to Access	On-going	Society will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment

Weatherhead High School Accessibility Plan 2015-2016
Improving the Delivery of Written Information at the School

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA for converting written information into alternative formats	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	On-going	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it	All school information available for all	On-going	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Get advice from HVSS on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customised materials	All school information available for all	On-going	Delivery of school information to pupils and parents with visual difficulties improved
Raise the awareness of adults working at and for the school on the importance of good communication systems	Arrange training courses	Awareness of target group raised	On-going	School is more effective in meeting the needs of pupils