

North Somercotes CE Primary School

Accessibility Plan



Purpose of the Plan:

The purpose of this plan is to show how North Somercotes CE Primary School intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils.

Definition of Disability:

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Legal Background:

As a result of 2010's Equality Act, we at North Somercotes CE Primary School have developed a school accessibility plan which is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

This plan sets out how North Somercotes CE Primary School increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Disability Discrimination Act:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum, which includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school, such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits;
- improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services, which includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled. eg. handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of the pupils' disabilities and the preferred format of pupils and parents and be made available within a reasonable timeframe.

North Somercotes CE Primary School aims to treat all stakeholders, including pupils, prospective pupils, staff, governors and other members of the school community favourably and, wherever possible, takes reasonable steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage. The school aims to work closely with disabled pupils, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove or minimise any potential barriers to learning, which puts them at a disadvantage, but allows them to learn, achieve and participate fully in school life. The school is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in the school and in planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils.

Contextual Information:

The school building was built in 1993 and is fully accessible for a child in a wheelchair, as is the playground. A ramp is available to be used through the Year 4 classroom. Doorways are wide and doors can be held open with a latch. A large disabled toilet is fully accessible in the entrance area. Furniture is movable and classroom layouts are regularly adapted to be fit for purpose. The playground is fully accessible with no steps other than to the gazebo. The personnel gates at each entrance to the school are fully accessible for wheelchair users. A disabled parking space is available in the school car park. At the time of writing, no children on roll have a physical disability which requires special provision.

The Current Range of Disabilities within North Somercotes CE Primary School:

The school has children with a limited range of disabilities which include Autistic Spectrum Disorder. When children enter school with specific disabilities, the school contacts the LA professionals and playgroups/previous schools for assessments, support and guidance for the school and parents.

Some children and staff have allergies or food intolerances/cultural food choices. Lunchtime staff are aware of such situations and skilfully ensure these children are suitably catered for, in line with the other children. All medical information, including those who use inhalers is collated and available to staff. Children with very specific medical needs are highlighted on the staff noticeboard. All staff hold current First Aid certificates including up to 10 staff with Paediatric First Aid certification. All medication is kept in a central safe and secure place in the medical room, near the office, which has easy access for First Aiders and staff members. Administration of Medicines consent forms are filled in by parents outlining the illness and amount and time of medication. All medication that is given is recorded.

Provision for children with limited sight / hearing:

While at the time of writing North Somercotes CE Primary School has no children with significant sight or hearing issues, we have the capacity to support them through classroom practice. Strategies include placing such children near the front of the room, using microphones synchronised to hearing aids and using enlarged texts/kinaesthetic techniques to support and replace conventional learning styles.

Supporting Parents/Carers with accessibility issues:

We are able to support parents/carers around the school as regards accessibility through a range of methods:

- enlarged texts on emails/letters home;
- verbal communication used rather than written as appropriate;
- furniture is adaptable to be fit for purpose;

This is a working document and as such, individual needs will be considered and acted upon when necessary.

Policy adopted: Jan 2017