

MERSTONE SCHOOL

Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan

This Accessibility Policy and Plan are drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

1. At Merstone we are committed to providing an 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.
2. Merstone School plans, over time, to ensure the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school.
3. An Accessibility Plan will be drawn up and the plan will be updated annually.
4. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
 - Improve access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
 - Increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to 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 and make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include hand-outs, 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.
5. The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly.
6. We acknowledge that there is a need for on-going awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM			
TARGET	ACTION	COSTS	IMPACT
Improve staff skills working with pupils with Autism	All staff – AET Complex needs training	LA funded – SISS team to deliver	Increased access to provision by pupils with ASC
Ensure that students are able to achieve appropriate accredited courses	Review year 9 curriculum and introduce Entry level qualifications at earlier stage Revise curriculum for KS4 & 5 accreditation – Ascentis accreditations Review progress	Teacher meeting time	All students have personalised accreditation plan and leave school with range of qualifications/ accreditation
Enhance equipment to improve access to the curriculum for pupils with additional needs	Review pupil needs on entry and throughout the year. Purchase seating, standing equipment Dyslexia filters, weighted blankets etc	£3,000	All pupils have access to adapted provision in order to safely and comfortably access the curriculum
Improve pupils access to the curriculum by increasing their emotional health and well being	Identify interventions for individual pupils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music therapy • Sensory processing support • Drawing & Talking therapy 	£10,000	Reduced pupil anxiety – increased engagement in curriculum

ACCESS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
TARGET	ACTION	COSTS	IMPACT
Improve the range of equipment available at break times	Consult pupils and plan new equipment Improve playground markings to provide guidance to pupils	£750	Increase in facilitated social interaction
Ensure that safe disabled parking is available for pupils with physical disabilities	Monitor car park Reserve disabled places as appropriate	Nil	Pupils and parents have safe entrance & exit to school
Improve access to swimming facilities	Introduce a swimming club so that pupils with physical disabilities can access this as a leisure opportunity	£500	Improved mobility for users Increased access to after school specialist provision

ACCESS TO WRITTEN INFORMATION			
TARGET	ACTION	COSTS	IMPACT
Increase pupils understanding of the written word	Review use of Makaton symbols in classes, Annual Reviews, on displays	Nil	Pupils will have increased access to written information
Offer written information in different formats	On website and newsletters identify access to different font size versions	On an individual basis	Pupils and families will have full access to information

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