



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Reviewed Autumn 2011

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

School Accessibility Plan

Millbrook Combined School and Nursery

Mission Statement:

We, at Millbrook, 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.

Introduction:

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002.

Definition of Disability:

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA): "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."

Key Objectives:

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to allow full participation of all pupils in every aspect of Millbrook's school life. Millbrook School 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:

- Physical Environment
- Curriculum
- Aids and Equipment
- Written Information

Principles

Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is consistent with Millbrook's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of Millbrook's Special Educational Needs policy. Millbrook recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):

- Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- To publish an Accessibility Plan.

In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice (2002).

Physical Environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lightning, acoustics and colour schemes and more accessible fixtures and fittings. Where appropriate, and within the resources available, the school will 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.

Curriculum

The school is responsible for providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils and has a role in planning to increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils. Millbrook School provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:

- setting suitable learning challenges
- responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Millbrook School provides additional provision to enable pupils with learning difficulties to access the curriculum through the SEN framework. The school ensures that pupils with disability are as equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. 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.

The following documents are used in making the curriculum accessible to disabled pupils at Millbrook School:

- The National Curriculum 2000
- The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) general and subject guidelines on planning, teaching and assessing the curriculum for pupils with learning difficulties.
- *Supporting The Target Setting Process* published by the DfES and QCA,

Aids and Equipment

The school will ensure that all pupils needing to use specialist aids or equipment such as: wheelchairs or hearing aids, are enabled to participate as fully and effectively as possible within the national curriculum and the statutory assessment arrangements. Teachers will take specific action to enable effective participation of pupils with disabilities by:

- Planning appropriate amounts of time to allow for the satisfactory completion of task
- Planning opportunities, where necessary, for the development of skills in practical aspects of the curriculum
- Identifying aspects of programmes of study and attainment targets that may present specific difficulties for individuals.

Written information

The school will improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might 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.

Action Plans

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.

Staff Training

We, at Millbrook, 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.

Other Policies

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity Scheme
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- Inclusion Policy
- Special Needs Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- School Brochure and Mission Statement
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Access Audit

The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the Millbrook 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 first 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.

Additional Points

- 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".
- The School Brochure will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.
- The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
- Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents (statutory).
- The Plan will be monitored through the Curriculum and the Premises Committees of the Governors. The school will work in partnership with the local education authority in developing and implementing this plan.
- The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

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