



The Edith Borthwick School

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Date Staff Consulted	N/A
Lead Governor	Heather Fairhurst
Date approved by Resources Committee	14.5.20
Date approved by Governing Body	N/A
Next review date	Summer 2023

Accessibility Plan

At The Edith Borthwick School our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Learners are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible learners here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving learners' confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy learners achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010 (updated 17.05.2019). School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that "schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation".

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

Objectives

The Edith Borthwick School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all learners, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school will evaluate the needs of learners on an individual basis during their admissions process and monitor this situation regularly through mechanisms such as the annual review of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process.

The School plans for:

- Improving access to the physical environment of the site.

This includes improvements to the environment of the buildings, which can include visual, acoustic and physical environments. The school was purpose built and opened in September 2015 and so the physical environment offers excellent accessibility. However, the school is committed to continuing to adapt facilities as necessary in order to improve access for individuals with differing needs or as the school population changes.

- Enabling access for learners to the curriculum

Access to the curriculum includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum such as lunchtime clubs, leisure, sporting and cultural activities or school visits. The Edith Borthwick School is open to purchasing specialist resources and equipment to facilitate curriculum access, including communication technologies, IT software, specialist sensory equipment, furniture and accessible transport.

- Supporting pupils with medical needs

Some learners at The Edith Borthwick School have complex health needs requiring medical attention and intervention. Where appropriate, pupils will have individualised plans written in partnership with the school, family and health team in order to ensure young people are best supported at school. The School makes every effort to ensure that all children are included in the full range of school activities and carries out risk assessments for activities, journeys and trips which take into account the needs of the individual.

At The Edith Borthwick School, 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, medical, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.