

Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Primary Schools Federation

School Accessibility Policy 2018

Introduction

Both Great Massingham and Harpley School buildings, apart from the new group room at Harpley which, at present, is accessed by three steps, are all on one level. The age and original designs of the main buildings do not always lend themselves to providing perfect access for people with disabilities but, where possible, difficulties have been minimised.

What the buildings and sites offer and the improvements made in relation to accessibility are as follows:

- Both schools are single storey and, as a result, all public-access rooms, all public entrances, toilets and halls are on the ground floor.
- Ramp access is provided at the Great Massingham FS play area which is also accessed via one step.
- Most doors have been widened to allow wheel chair access.
- Both schools have a disabled toilet with shower.
- Both schools have both tarmac areas and green spaces. All are accessible.

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 Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers for pupils to access the curriculum and participate fully in the school community.

Principles

1. Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act is consistent with the school's aims and Equal Opportunities Policy, and the operation of the school's SEND policy;
2. The schools recognises their duty is:-
 - 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.
3. In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice (2002).
4. The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.
5. The 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. The school endorses the key principles of the development of a more inclusive curriculum by:
 - setting suitable learning challenges
 - responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
 - overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

The Plan

Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Primary Schools Federation has identified the following points for action as part of its School Development Plan, in order to achieve the key objective:

a) Delivery of the curriculum

Members of staff at both schools are aware of the importance of making the curriculum accessible to all pupils.

The schools will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEND inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts to achieve this goal.

b) Physical Environment

The schools will take account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

In particular:

- Consideration will be given to enhancing sound and lighting for evacuation purposes for people with disabilities.
- The height of the entry-phones and switches will be reviewed.
- A review of signage will be carried out and consideration will be given to providing signs in Braille at the main entrance.
- Consideration will be given to how ramp access can be provided for the new group room at the Harpley site, when funding allows.

c) Provision of information in other formats

The school is aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Linked Policies

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related federation policies, e.g.

- School Development Plans
- SEND/Inclusion policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Health & Safety policy
- Learning & Teaching policy

Date of Plan: January 2018

Date of Review: January 2019