



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN POLICY

Review Date

DECEMBER 2021

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN AND POLICY

Introduction

Byron Wood Academy is committed to educating its pupils to their highest potential as reflected in the school's stated aims and ethos. In order to do this we must seek to match services to pupils' needs. Nowhere is this more important than in the case of pupils who have a disability or difficulty in accessing the curriculum. This plan and policy outlines how we will strive to overcome such difficulties wherever reasonably possible so that all our pupils can access, enjoy and make progress in their learning.

Equal Opportunities

Our aim is that all of our children have equal access to the curriculum, facilities and services that the school provides regardless of gender, race, ability or physical impairment. Where appropriate, we will take all reasonable steps necessary to supply the appropriate resources to support all pupils so that they may fully access school life and the educational experiences we provide.

The Equalities Act 2010 requires all schools to have an Accessibility Strategy to improve the physical environment of the school for pupils with disabilities and SEN. This plan will show how the school will plan to make the school more accessible to pupils with a disability

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

The Responsible Body

The responsibility for the implementation of the Accessibility Plan lies with the governing body. The LEA has an Accessibility Strategy including a 3-year plan, which Byron Wood Academy endorses and supports in full.

Objectives

Byron Wood Academy is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that 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 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 recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

The Byron Wood Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain 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 within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve 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 timeframe.

The Byron Wood Academy Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

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

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Critical Incident Plan
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Review Procedures

This plan and policy will be reviewed on a regular basis and its contents presented to the governing body for ratification.