

Highfurlong School

'Inspire, Challenge, Believe'



Accessibility Plan 2021-2024

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Accessibility Plan

Accessibility Plan 2020-22

Introduction

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled 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 undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

Key Objective

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.



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Characteristics of the School

Highfurlong School is an outstanding co-educational co-located community special school. It is one of four Special Schools in Blackpool and provides education for pupils aged 2 to 19 years with a wide range of special educational needs. Highfurlong School is co-located with Aspire Academy - a co-educational mainstream Secondary Academy.

Highfurlong is a purpose built, single storey special school. All pupils have a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Education Health Care (EHC) plan. There are approximately 100 pupils and 60 staff in the school. The high ratio of staff to pupils has increased over a number of years, reflecting the increasing number of pupils in school with increasingly complex needs. In addition to school employed staff, Highfurlong school works in partnership with NHS colleagues to meet the medical and physical needs of the pupils.

Most of our pupils live in Blackpool within a large widely dispersed catchment area. A number of pupils live across the local border in Lancashire.

Aims of the Highfurlong School Accessibility Plan:

- To ensure that all pupils are fully involved in school life by removing barriers to participation
- To further develop the knowledge and skills of teaching and support staff when teaching or supporting learning of a wide range of pupils with additional needs
- To develop strong collaborative relationships with pupils, parents, families and carers and to ensure the continued satisfaction of disabled pupils and their parents or carers with the provision made by the school
- To monitor exclusions and ensure recruitment and promotion procedures in light of disability legislation
- To encourage the availability of role models and positive images of disability.



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Accessibility Plan

Action Plan:

Area of Focus 1	Objectives	Timescale	Person responsible	Success criteria
Increase/Maintain access to the curriculum for pupils with additional needs.	Curriculum leader to audit curriculum to ensure it meets the latest National Curriculum and is differentiated and personalised and meets the needs of every single pupil. (Academic/Sensory Pathway/VI/HI/AAC)	Ongoing	JSH & NOL	100% of all pupils access the curriculum and curriculums matched their needs and 80% make at least expected progress. (this is mirrored in the teacher appraisal process)
	To ensure all pupils access the curriculum and liaise with other professionals where we need further advice	Ongoing	Teaching staff	100% of pupils are able to access the curriculum. This includes our REMOTE EDUCATION offer
	To continue to assess progress and attainment of all pupils. High Expectations for all. ILP's/Behaviour Plans/Risk assessments/Care plans ensure all pupils' needs are identified and met.	On going	NOL/JSH/LCL Teaching and support staff	80% make at least expected progress. High quality care, high standards of behaviour and challenging behaviour is well managed.



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Area of Focus 2	Objectives	Timescale	Person responsible	Success criteria
Improve/Maintain access to the physical environment.	<p>To ensure that as school is furnished the needs of all pupils, staff and visitors are taken into account - including VI/HI/ASD</p> <p>Improve the external areas of the school to allow better access to ‘Move’ and ‘Play’ areas the curriculum</p>	On going	SLT	<p>Highfurlong school is a totally Inclusive school. Every individual's needs can be met.</p> <p>New external areas that are accessible and weather proof</p>
	New meadow and outdoor area to be developed to further enhance outdoor provision, or developed for additional learning space	ON HOLD	NOL/ LTU/ MBI	ON HOLD

Area of Focus 3	Objectives	Timescale	Person responsible	Success criteria
Improve the delivery of written information to pupils	All signs to continue to be in auditory, written form, symbolic and include objects of reference. Written information on coloured paper for those with VI.	On going	NOL/ AAC team/ SaLT team	All pupils can access information using any form of communication including AAC



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	To support HI families by arranging interpreters from the RNID to communicate as and when needed.	On going	NOL/ AAC team/ SaLT team	All pupils and their families can access meetings/assemblies etc
	Offer telephone calls to explain letters home for any parents who might need this	On going	Tea chin g Sta f/ Le vel 4 TA	All pupils and their families can access information from school.

Monitoring:

Highfurlong governing body will take responsibility for the school's Accessibility Plan and set a clear direction and report on it every 3 years. The views of pupils and parents/carers will be sought at Annual Reviews.

Progress towards meeting objectives will be monitored as part of the school self evaluation process. The school's Accessibility Plan will be available on the Schools website, on shared documents on the school network and from the school office.