

Wistanstow Primary School Accessibility Policy and Action Plan February 2017 – July 2019

Introduction

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. 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.

It is a requirement that the school’s accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. Attached is an action plan showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

At Wistanstow CE Primary School we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued, so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

The purpose and direction of the school’s plan: vision and values

Our vision is that Wistanstow CE Primary School should be a harmonious learning community where children are challenged to achieve their best and are valued as individuals. Our school’s commitment to equal opportunities is driven by the National Curriculum statement on inclusion. The school:

- sets suitable learning challenges
- responds to pupils’ needs and overcoming potential barriers for individuals and groups of pupils

Although our school has not had in its recent history, and presently does not have children with physical disabilities, we have a commitment to promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities which includes:

- Not to treat pupils with disabilities less favourably for a reason relating to their disability without justification
- To make reasonable adjustments so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to those who do not have disabilities.
- To plan strategically to increase access over time, to the school premises and through the curriculum and providing different materials in alternative formats to ensure accessibility.

If the school is unable to meet the needs of a young person through reasonable adjustments and the best endeavours of all concerned we will have regard for the guidance in the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

When new pupils arrive in school we carry out meetings with the parent to consider the strengths we can promote and to gain as much information about how we can remove any barriers to learning they may have. This includes children with disabilities. Following these meetings we would

- ♣ Plan ahead
- ♣ Identify potential barriers
- ♣ Work collaboratively with disabled pupils, their parents and others
- ♣ Identify practical solutions through a problem solving approach

- ♣ Ensure that staff have necessary skills
- ♣ Monitor the effects of adjustments on a pupil's progress.

We act on advice from Outside Agencies and we would work closely with the Local Authority and seek professional advice to plan adjustments which are deemed necessary.

Wistanstow Primary School Accessibility Action Plan

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe Goals
Short Term	1.Improve the school gate	Discussion with Ian Bartlett – Safer Schools	The gate is safe terms of access from outside and yet also able to act as a Fire Escape	By end of Autumn Term 2017
	2. Visualizers	Purchase visualizers for each class	Give all children access to visually larger text on the whiteboard.	By end of Summer Term 2017
Medium Term	Set up a school library	Work with Shropshire Library Service	Information books accessible to all children on lower shelves	By end of Spring term 2018
Long Term	To update the heating system within the school	LA inspection of current system. Apply for grant to improve the system.	Better environment for learning as temperature more easily controlled during the day.	By end academic year 2019 depending on successful grant application.