

Horsmonden Primary School



Draft Accessibility Plan

2016-2019

1. Legal background

The Disability Discrimination Act (as amended by the Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001) requires all schools and LEAs to plan to increase the accessibility of schools for disabled students. LEAs must prepare an accessibility strategy covering all maintained schools in their area, and each school must produce its own accessibility plan. From September 2002 schools and LEAs are required to start formulating accessibility strategies and plans. They must have written documentation covering an initial period of three years in place by April 2003. Both schools and LEAs are required to plan for:

Improving access to the physical environment of schools

This includes improvements to the environment of the School, which can include visual, acoustic and physical environments. All new school buildings have to comply with the Building Regulations and the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and should be physically accessible to disabled students. Much of the work in the area of improving the physical environment will therefore involve improving access to existing buildings.

Increasing access for disabled students to the curriculum

Access to the curriculum covers not only teaching and learning, but also the wider curriculum such as after-school activities, leisure, sporting and cultural activities or school visits. LAs may be able to help schools by offering staff training, encouraging schools to work together and share good practice, and by offering schools a range of support services such as advice on teaching techniques, classroom management and curriculum material.

Improving the delivery of written information to disabled students

This covers planning to make written information normally provided by the School to its students available to disabled students. Information should take account of students' disabilities and parents' preferred formats and should be made available within a reasonable timescale. LAs may help schools by organising central support services to provide information in alternative formats. LAs may also encourage schools to share information and expertise. The LA must consult with schools and dioceses when preparing its accessibility strategy. LAs and schools have a duty to review their strategies and plans, revise them if necessary, and to implement them. LEAs and schools should prioritise resources for implementing their strategies and plans.

Maintained schools must make their plans publicly available in their governors' annual report to parents. LAs are required to make their strategies available for inspection to interested parties at reasonable times.

2. Definitions

The Disability Discrimination Act describes a disability as “a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect upon their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

Impairments include sensory impairments – such as those affecting sight or hearing, and people who have had a disability are protected from discrimination even if they no longer have a disability. Mental illnesses that are clinically well-recognized are included. So, for example, medically diagnosed ADHD is considered a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act. While many disabled students will have, or may be eligible for, statements of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plans, not all disabled students have SEN. Equally, not all students with SEN will necessarily have a disability under this legislation.

1. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the staff and governors of the School and covers the period from June 2016 – June 2019.
2. This statement sets out the ways in which Horsmonden Primary School provides 'access' to education for pupils with a disability.
3. Horsmonden Primary School has fair physical access – built in 1969 on a single site and a single storey. When planning for future building work access for pupils with disabilities is always a consideration. We are committed to working towards providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all students, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, 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.
4. Horsmonden Primary School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors to the School. The following areas will form the basis of the Accessibility Plan with relevant actions to:
 - Increase access to the curriculum, incorporating after-school and out of school activities and including educational visits;
 - Improve access to the physical environment of the School;
 - Improve the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.
5. Attached is an Action Plan, relating to these three key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New plans will be drawn up for the following three-year period, 2019-2021.

6. It is acknowledged that there will be the need for ongoing awareness raising and training for all staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the potential need to inform attitudes on this matter.

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

Single Equality Scheme/Policy

Health & Safety Policy

SEN Policy/Information Report

Behaviour Policy

8. As curriculum policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added where appropriate. The School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.

9. The School will work in partnership with Kent Local Authority in developing and implementing this plan and will adopt in principle the “LA Strategy for Accessibility”.

10. The School plan will be monitored by the Governing Body.

NB During May INSET day Staff devised draft Action Plans for the priority areas. These will be shared and approved by governors at the next meeting on 13th July 2016, prior to publication.