

# WINGATE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

wingate  
community  
nursery  
and outdoor  
nature school

### Vision Statement

Under the Equality Act 2010, all 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.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At Wingate Community Nursery School, the Plan will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At Wingate Community Nursery 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.

1. Wingate Nursery School's Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with children, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date.

2. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

3. Wingate Nursery School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all children, 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

4. Wingate Nursery School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled children, 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 children with a disability, expanding the **curriculum** as necessary to ensure that those with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are 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 cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or **auxiliary aids and equipment**, which may assist these children 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 children, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include books, hand-outs, timetables, newsletters and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

5. Wingate Nursery School's Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

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

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

- Asset Management Plan
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Critical Incident Support Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality Plan
- School Prospectus, 'Learning for Living'
- School Development Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Development Policy

8. 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.

9) 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.

10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Premises Committee

12) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

13) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our Aims are:

- **Continue to develop even better access to the EYFS curriculum for children with a disability**
- **Improve and maintain access to the physical environment**
- **Improve the delivery of written information to children**

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

### **Current good practice**

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers on our home visits and Welcome Evening in June – before the children start with us in September. One of our school values is a respect for parents and carers, putting in great effort to develop positive relationships with them from the very beginning. Through these close relationships, we enable parents and carers of children to talk openly and honestly with us - sharing information in the child's best interests.

### **Physical Environment**

Disabled children participate in all activities. Some aspects of these activities present particular challenges, for example: school trips for children with medical needs. There are very few parts of the school to which disabled children have limited or no access at the moment, due to the building layout and building work to extend the school in 2006.

### **Curriculum**

There are very few areas of the curriculum to which disabled children have limited or no access, as we work in a very holistic, child-centred way. We have developed skills over time in supporting children with disabilities and have a dedicated team of outreach staff who have expertise in this area.

However, some areas of the curriculum present slight challenges, for example: accessing the dens at the top of the garden is tricky for pupils with a physical impairment. Other issues affect the participation of disabled children, for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten.

### **Information**

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled children to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled children, (eg picture cards) parents and staff (large print on letters). We also make an effort to communicate by speaking to all parents who may have issues with reading letters or signs.

## **Access Audit**

The school is a single storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. The main entrance into the building is accessible to all, with wide corridors leading to the different rooms ie Nursery, baby room, 2's and 3's rooms. Doors leading to the garden are standard size, but manageable for wheelchair users. There is a step leading to the grassy hill – where help would possibly be needed for access to the rest of the garden.

On-site car parking for SLT staff and includes one dedicated disabled parking bay. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a low reception desk, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. There is a disabled toilet available in the main reception area which is fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The children's toilet facilities can accommodate a child's size wheelchair.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

## **Management, coordination and implementation**

- We will consult with experts when new situations regarding children with disabilities are experienced.
- The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the Local Authority.

## Action Plan

### Aim 1: To continue to develop access to the EYFS curriculum for children with a disability

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for children and prospective children, with a disability.

	<b>SHORT TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
<b>SHORT TERMS</b>	To liaise with other providers and parents to review every new intake of children	To identify children who may need additional to or different from provision for each intake	Ongoing	HT	Procedures/equipment /ideas in place/action by each Sept term
	To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	HT	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
	To establish close relationships with parents	To ensure collaboration and sharing between school and families.	Ongoing	HT All staff	Clear collaborative working approach
	To establish close liaison with outside agencies for children with on going health needs. eg Children with severe asthma, epilepsy or mobility issues.	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel	Ongoing	HT All staff Outside agencies	Clear collaborative working approach
	To ensure full access to the curriculum for all children.	CPD for staff to access regular training to support children with a disability. The use of earlier age bands in the EYFS to help develop more relevant learning opportunities and assessment of progress for children with disabilities.	Ongoing	HT (SENCO) All staff	Advice taken and strategies evident in nursery practice.

		A differentiated curriculum. Use of interactive ICT equipment Specific equipment sourced from occupational therapy/lending library		SENCO Special school Ed Psych	
	<b>MEDIUM TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	To finely review attainment of all SEND children.	SENCO/key person meetings/outreach support worker – to look at support plans  Scrutiny of assessment system  Regular liaison with parents	Ongoing	HT	Progress made towards SEN Support Plan Outcomes  Provision mapping shows clear steps and progress made
	To monitor the attainment of More Able children	Policy and More Able (gifted and talented) list to be updated  More Able booster groups/activities  Monitor Able G&T list	Ongoing  Annually	HT  All staff	More Able G&T children making proportionate progress.  Achieving above average results.

	<p>To promote the involvement of disabled children in family group discussions/activities</p> <p>To take account of variety of learning styles when teaching</p>	<p>Within the Curriculum, the school aims to provide full access to all aspects of the curriculum by providing (where appropriate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheelchair access</li> <li>• Screen magnifier software for the visually impaired</li> <li>• Hearing amplifiers for hearing impaired children</li> <li>• Giving alternatives to enable disabled children to participate successfully in activities</li> <li>• Creating positive images of disability within the school so that children grow into adults who have some understanding of the needs of disabled people.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Whole school approach	<p>Variety of learning styles and multi- sensory activities evident in the planning.</p> <p>Ensuring that the needs of all disabled children, parents and staff are represented within the school.</p>
<b>LONG TERM</b>	<b>LONG TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	To evaluate and review the above short and long term targets annually	See above	Annually	SLT Governors	All children making good progress.
	To deliver findings to the Governing Body	Finance and Premises and Curriculum Governors meetings	Annually Termly SEN Governor / SENCO meetings	SENCO SEN Governor	Governors fully informed about SEN provision and progress

**Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled children can take advantage of education.**

	<b>SHORT TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	Improve physical environment of school environment	The school will take account the needs of children, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	All staff	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
	Ensure environment is appropriately calming and conducive to engagement and focus for all children	To provide a holistic learning climate that thoughtfully plans the spaces and resources and the ethos and atmosphere that enables all children to engage in deep level learning – at their own levels according to their special needs and disabilities.	Ongoing	All staff	Focused, purposeful environment.
<b>SHORT TERM</b>	Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of Support Plan Process.</li> <li>• Include questions in the initial information gathering forms about parents/carers' access needs and ensure they are met in all events.</li> </ul>	With immediate effect, to be constantly reviewed	All staff	Enabling needs to be met where possible.

	To ensure that the medical needs of all children are met fully within the capability of the school.	To hold parent meetings, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual protocols where needed.	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Head Teacher HV Occupational Health Portage	
	Ensuring disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise disabled parking spaces for disabled parents to drop off &amp; collect children</li> <li>• Arrange interpreters from the RNID to communicate with deaf parents</li> <li>• Offer a telephone call to explain letters home for some parents who need this</li> <li>• Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents</li> </ul>	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Whole school team  With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education

<b>MEDIUM TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
To improve community links	School to continue to have strong links with schools in Durham Local Authority and the wider community.	Ongoing	SLT All staff	Improved awareness of disabilities/the wider community of Durham and the world and their needs  Improved community cohesion
<b>LONG TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
Continue to develop outdoor facilities.	Look for funding opportunities	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Inclusive child-friendly play areas.
To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe as possible.	Communication with parents via safety messages /letters/Facebook	Ongoing	Whole School Caretaker	No accidents

**Aim 3: To improve the delivery of information to disabled children and parents.**

	<b>SHORT TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	Parent with Hearing impairment	Regular communication with parents  Interpreter provided for parents' evening/annual reviews	Ongoing	HT  Staff team	Two-way communication in place.
	To ensure all children with ASD have access to the curriculum	Regular parental communication  Individualised multi-sensory teaching strategies used for ASD children.	Ongoing	All staff to be aware	ASD children able to access curriculum.
	To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of font size and page layouts will support children/parents with visual impairments.</li> <li>• Auditing the school books to ensure the availability of large font and easy read texts will improve access.</li> <li>• Auditing signage around the school to ensure that is accessible to all is a valuable exercise.</li> </ul>			
	<b>MEDIUM TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	To review children's records ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities	Information collected about new children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records passed from childcare/other private provider during transition period</li> </ul>	Annually	AHT  ALL KEY PERSONS  Outside agencies	Each staff member aware of disabilities of children in their family groups and the whole group

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reviews</li> <li>• Support Plan meetings</li> <li>• Medical forms updated regularly for all children</li> <li>• EHCP's</li> <li>• Significant health problems – children's photos displayed in kitchen area/info kept in separate file in study</li> </ul>		SLT Office staff	
	<b>LONG TERM Targets</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
	In school record system to be reviewed and improved where necessary.  (Records on Sims/ network/ protected	Record keeping system to be reviewed.	Continual review and improvement	SLT	Effective communication of information about disabilities throughout school.

Latest Review; September 2018

