



## **Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan 2023 - 2026**

### **Introduction**

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 explains 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,
- 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 and because of this, we at Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School review the policy every three years and at that time, it is approved by our Governing Body.

The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School it will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors’ committee.

At Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and enjoyable 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 Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up in consultation with stakeholders and the current plan covers September 2022 – September 2025. In line with government guidelines this plan will be reviewed in the autumn term of 2025. The plan will be published on the school website and will be monitored by the Local Educational Authority who will provide feedback to us to help us further develop our plan.

## Aims

At Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School we aim to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

The Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School's Accessibility Plan complements and supports our school's work on equality and diversity. As a school we are committed to providing an environment which enables all children to access the whole curriculum and extra curriculum activities we have to offer. Furthermore, we are committed to ensuring that all visitors are able to access our services and activities including parent's evenings, trips, shared learning afternoons and open days. We are also committed to taking any additional reasonable additional actions that may be necessary to meet the needs of any member of our school community.

At Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School, we will endeavour to provide 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.

Our Accessibility Plan highlights how we will:

- Improve the awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout our school.
- Ensure we have accessible entrances and exits throughout our school building for all members who access it.
- Further improve and develop access to the physical environment for all members and visitors of our school community.
- Ensure our curriculum is differentiated and accessible to all children, meeting the needs of all members of our school community so that any member with additional needs or disabilities can have the same access to all activities as able-bodied members. This will include all episodes of teaching and learning which occurs throughout the entirety of the school day including additional wrap around care opportunities such as breakfast club or afterschool club along with educational trips and visits. The plan also includes the provision of any required specialist equipment which may help our pupils access the curriculum.
- Ensure new members of staff appointed to the school, whatever their role, are clear about our commitments to ensuring the school meet their responsibilities under The Equality Act 2010 during their induction.
- Ensure training is continually provided to support staff and governors to recognise their need to continually raise awareness on issues relating to The Equality Act 2010.

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

- Behaviour and Rewards Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality Plan
- School Prospectus
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy

### Current Good Practice

When children transition into our Nursery setting we gather any relevant information which may help the school provide appropriately for the needs of the children. During this time, we will gather information about any additional need, disability or health condition with new parents and carers. This would be the same process used for an in year transfer. For parents and carers of children already attending our school, we would collect and update this information as part of our regular record updating process. We aim wherever possible, to have books labelled, coat hooks named and have access to the appropriate uniform, so that children can immediately feel part of our school community.

Pupils throughout school work alongside the SENDCO to ensure they have the most recent information regarding the children's particular needs as it is deemed appropriate for that information to be shared. This is to ensure that all staff working with a child with additional needs can respond appropriately.

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available on request for disabled pupils, parents and staff.

A range of pens and pencils with different types of grips and or thickness are provided for pupils with difficulties in motor skills.

Visual timetables are present in all classrooms consistently across school. When activities are completed they are removed to support understanding and routines.

Many pupils have access to a sensory diet and additional sensory resources to support emotional regulation and concentration. This can range from fiddle toys to move and sit cushions.

If we have a pupil or staff member with a disability which may affect their ability to leave the building quickly or efficiently during a fire alarm, a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) will be completed in consultation with the staff who are involved in their care.

Pupils with specific visual difficulties will be provided with large font when working, coloured overlays (if appropriate) and worksheets in the appropriate colour if any assessments suggest they would help.

Pupils with specific hearing impairments will be seated appropriately during all teaching episodes to ensure that they are able to hear effectively. Any training needed to provide appropriate support for children will be organised for staff to partake in.

The above are a range of some of the adjustments we make and the equipment we provide to support pupils' learning, all of which are individualised and adapted to meet the needs of each child. This list is not exhaustive and is continually added to as the need arises or as the need increases. We work with a range of external providers including therapists, specialists and advisory staff to ensure we provide a high quality teaching and learning provision for all pupils.

### Access Audit

Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School is a single storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. All classroom areas are all on the ground floor with wide door access to all rooms. The dining hall are accessible to all.

Access to the school can only be made via a fob, unless permitted to enter by school office staff for safeguarding reasons.

On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes two dedicated disabled parking bays. All entrances to the school are either flat or accessibly via a ramp, most have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby with exit buttons being fully accessible to wheelchair users. There are accessible toilet facilities available in the main KS1 area.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Each class has its own outline plan and the escape route identified. A copy of escape route can be found in all classrooms within school.

### Management, Co-ordination and Implementation

At Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School we will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the Local Authority to resolve new or emerging issues relating to accessibility.

**Written by:** J. Peaker SENDCO and DSL

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