



CHERRY TREES & WIGHTWICK HALL

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

NOVEMBER 2023

Vision Statement

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing 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:

- a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- b) 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 Local Governing Board. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Local Governing Board, an individual or the Head.

School's Mission Statements: 'Working, Learning, Achieving Together' (Cherry Trees) and 'Developing Life Skills through Education' (Wightwick Hall).

As a special school we encompass all pupils who come to our school whatever their physical or learning disability. Every child has an EHCP of Educational Needs and the school endeavours to meet those needs. Some of our pupils have poor self esteem following a negative experience in a mainstream setting; through our mission statement we use many different, exciting and individualised methods to engage all the pupils in their learning.

A. Increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils are prepared for life. This incorporates teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also includes the provision of specialist **aids, equipment and teachers**, which may assist pupils in accessing the curriculum.

B. Improve access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary, for both adults and children. This includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access teaching and learning.

C. Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors. Examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

Attached are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and local governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

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

- Curriculum
- Equalities
- Staff Development
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- School Improvement Plan
- Behaviour Management

ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

<u>Section A</u>			
QUESTION	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Do you ensure that teachers & TAs have the necessary training to teach and support disabled pupils?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers & TAs have access to and take advantage of CPD designed to improve the understanding of SEND pupils. • All staff are supported financially in gaining further qualifications. • All staff are supported in gaining therapist qualifications including Nurture, Counselling and Holistic Therapies. • Staff are supported in gaining TEACCH qualifications. • Staff are PECs trained, can use Communicate in Print and have Makaton Level 1 training. • Staff are trained to be Dyslexia aware. • Schools are being trained in a trauma informed way, with regular training updates for all including emotion coaching development.
Are your classrooms optimally organised for disabled pupils?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classrooms are organised to maximise the potential delivery for the pupils with SEND. • High staffing ratios ensure pupils get individual attention. • Specialist equipment is provided for pupils with additional needs. • Other agencies e.g OT are consulted to deliver personalised approaches/equipment. • All spaces are risk assessed and have disabled access.

Do lessons provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All lessons are differentiated to meet the needs of all the pupils. • ICT enables pupils with poor motor control to access the curriculum. • Resourcing supports all children's needs. • High staffing ratio. • A diverse curriculum is on offer – delivered in a practical way. • Pupils have individual IEPs & IBSPs where appropriate to personalise their learning. • Differentiation through support and outcome. • Children have a planned pathway regardless of ability.
Are lessons responsive to pupil diversity?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All curriculums are planned to be responsive to British Values and embrace diversity. • All lessons take account of the diversity of needs of our pupils. • We ensure all pupils have a planned pathway to enable optimum progress and specialist support. • We provide opportunity for cultural development.
Do lessons involve work to be done by individuals, pairs, groups & the whole class?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most lessons include all these elements. • All EHCP's are consulted to include best practice for the individual.
Are all pupils encouraged to take part in Music, Drama and Physical activities?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils are included in all Drama lessons & Productions. • All pupils take part in Music and PE. • NHS Physiotherapist advises on individual physical programmes. • All pupils have extra outdoor PE opportunities through soft play, swimming (at Cherry Trees), football coach and table top cricket (at High School).
Do staff recognise and allow for the mental effort expended by some disabled pupils, for example using lip reading?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are well trained to use a variety of strategies which augment communication. • Staff have a basic knowledge of PECs and Makaton. • Some pupils are provided with electronic communication aids. • Staff and pupils are supported by the Speech Therapists and the Speech Therapy aides employed by school. • School employs a SaLT Assistant at Cherry Trees. • Cherry Trees employs qualified teachers of the VI. • Staff are trained in HI.

Do staff recognise and allow for the additional time required by some disabled pupils to use equipment in practical work	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA would work with pupils who need additional help. • Need for additional time for completion of tasks is recognised.
Do staff provide alternative ways of giving access to experience or understanding for disabled pupils who cannot engage in particular activities, e.g. some forms of Physical Education?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school ensures that disabled pupils have access to a wide range of physical activities. • The school is supported by a Physiotherapist who supports particular pupils and advises staff. • Staff receive training on 'Positioning & Handling' by the school-based trainer. • At the High School the Food Tech Room has low and high work surfaces. • We have sloping desks available. • Classes have rise/fall tables where needed. • Cherry Trees employs qualified teachers of the VI.
Do you provide access to computer technology appropriate to pupils with disabilities?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The computers in school have a range of input devices to support pupils with SEN including touch screens, concept keyboards, roller balls and interactive screens. • iPad communication software.
Are school visits, including overseas visits made accessible to all pupils irrespective of attainment or impairment?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child whatever their disability has the opportunity to attend a residential sometime during their school life if it is in agreement with their Medical Consultant and parent. • The school use Larches Wood, a purpose-built outdoor facility with specialist staff for pupils with profound difficulties. • The school use the Pioneer Centre as specialist disabled support. • The school use sites across the UK and ensure access and safety is appropriate.

Are there high expectations of all pupils?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils have an IEP to help identify needs and help the pupil reach their full potential. • All pupils have the opportunity to gain an accredited qualification. • All pupils' targets are set showing aspiration.
Do staff seek to remove all barriers to learning and participation?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each pupil has an Individual Education Plan which addresses their particular learning or behavioural need. This is addressed through each subject taught.

Section B

QUESTION	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Does the size and layout of areas – including all academic, sporting, play, social facilities, classrooms, assembly hall, canteen, library, gym, sporting facilities and playgrounds allow access for all pupils and staff?		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Asset Management Plan shows that some of the teaching areas are below 65sq m the recommended footage by the DfE for pupils with physical disabilities. This limits the number of pupils in each room.• Both sites have designated disabled toilets for pupils, staff and visitors.• The building is ramped for wheelchairs.
Can pupils, staff and visitors who use wheelchairs move around school without experiencing barriers to access such as those caused by doorways, steps, stairs, toilet facilities & showers?		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fobbed doors prevent any pupil access to certain areas of school.• Pupils are always accompanied by an adult around school to ensure necessary access.• Staff and visitors who require wheelchair access will have individual risk assessments and personal evacuation plans to ensure that any necessary support is provided, and is according to need
Are emergency and evacuation systems set up to inform all pupils including pupils with SEN and disability, including alarms with visual & auditory components?		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no visual component to the alarm system.• No child is left unsupervised/known place by staff; an adult would escort the pupil out.• Staff and visitors with additional needs will have individual risk assessments and personal evacuation plans to ensure that any necessary support is provided and is according to need.
Are non-visual guides used to assist people who use the building including lifts with tactile buttons?		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are Communicate in Print signs.

Could any of the décor or signage be considered to be confusing or disorientating for disabled pupils with visual impairments, autism or epilepsy?		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception is clearly demarcated. • Signage is in Communicate in Print.
Are areas to which pupils have access well lit.	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both schools have renewed LED lighting.
Are steps made to reduce background noise for hearing impaired pupils such as considering a room's acoustics, noisy equipment?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is generally quiet. All pupils are greeted by familiar staff. • Small quiet rooms have been provided for individual and group Speech Language sessions.
Is furniture and equipment selected, adjusted and located appropriately?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture is constantly assessed and where specialist furniture is needed it is provided using either school funds or fundraising money.

Section C

QUESTION	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Do you provide information in simple language, symbols, large print, Braille or audio for pupils or parents who may have difficulty with standard form of print?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate in Print is used for written work.• PECs symbols used.• Coloured paper used for pupils as a Dyslexia Friendly School.• All staff use Century Gothic.• Where parents are known to have additional needs, staff will contact them directly and talk through any written notices verbally.
Do you ensure that information is presented to groups in a way which is user friendly for people with disabilities. Eg by reading aloud, overhead projections and describing diagrams?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information is presented through written word and symbols in accordance with our Dyslexia Friendly Policy.• White boards are used in all classrooms.• Large print worksheets are available.• Large print texts are available in the Library.• Where parents are known to have additional needs, staff will contact them directly and talk through any written notices verbally.
Do you have the facilities such as ICT to produce written information in different formats?	√		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All classrooms have computers and whiteboards.• There are two ICT rooms at Wightwick Hall School and iPad and laptop trolleys on both sites.• All notices are produced using ICT.• All worksheets are produced using ICT.

Accessibility Plan 2023-25

A. Increase Access to the Curriculum				
Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Cultural Capital To increase the opportunities of ensuring that each child has an experiential curriculum that sits outside of academic learning and is progressive and rich.	Learning outside of the classroom. To develop links with workplaces and the local community and visitors to school.	All pupils will develop holistically and fully having opportunity to generalise skills and experience a rich and fuller life.	July 2024.	School delivers a rich and fulfilling curriculum that is planned with progress at its heart.
To develop the curriculum and reporting offer for pupils with most significant need.	At Cherry Trees embed use of the Engagement model for pupils and pupil groups where appropriate. To monitor use of Sensory Curriculum across both school sites.	All pupils have access appropriate to their needs and information reported about pupils demonstrates their individuality.	July 2024.	School delivers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum offer catering for the pre-formal, semi-formal and formal learners.
To improve the information shared at annual review to ensure EHC Plans are relevant and appropriate to the student needs.	Ensure that all pupils have appropriate EHC Plans in place. School staff may take lead in updating plans.	Pupils and families are supported appropriately by a range of professionals.	July 2024.	EHC Plans in place and fully representing pupils needs.

<p>To develop pupil voice around supporting their mental health.</p>	<p>Ensure that pupils across the range of school provision feel they have access to appropriate support in this area.</p> <p>Mental Health to be a standing agenda item for the School Council.</p> <p>Carry out Pupil Well-Being Survey.</p>	<p>Pupil's voice shared with all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Commence Sept 2023.</p>	<p>Pupil voice strongly represented.</p>
--	---	--	----------------------------	--

B. Improve access to the physical environment of the school

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
To review signage on both school sites to update to permanent accessible signage.	Engage with LA Health and Safety Rep in review of signage around school.	School signage adheres to best practice.	July 2024.	Information available which is appropriate and accessible for all learners, staff and visitors.
To improve signage for pupils and adults with visual impairments.	To produce a range of signs using tactile braille.	Rooms are suitably marked.	Spring 2024.	All areas are suitably accessible for all pupils.
At Wightwick Hall to review VI th Form Common Room provision by providing a ramp or moving to a more accessible area.	Review provision and identify best course of action. Secure any required funding and carry out changes	Common Room appropriate and accessible to all	December 2023.	Improved access.
At Wightwick Hall, to complete works on an unused corridor to ensure that it is accessible to all and can be used as an effective learning space	Consult with Entrust to design and create an accessible learning space	Additional capacity to meet the needs of the local area	Sept 2024	Improved resources

C. Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
To raise the profile of the school within the local community. (Rebuild and recover after the pandemic)	To invite the local press to key events within school.	Our schools will be well known and respected within the community – the pupils' opportunities will be broadened by greater community links.	On-going.	The school is well represented in the local community. Newsletter.
	For the PTA to contact local businesses and collect support for their events.		On-going.	
	Headteachers to attend local Head's meetings.	More work with local mainstream schools.		Parent Seminars are well attended.
	To engage with Parents Group for targeted information.			

The Accessibility Plan has been reviewed by Governors - November 2023