



Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre

Accessibility Plan

3-year period covered by the plan: 2017 - 2020

Introduction

This plan is prepared under paragraph 3 of schedule 10 to The Equality Act 2010. Compliance with the Disability Duty under the Equalities Act is consistent with our school aims, Single Equality Scheme and the operation of the schools SEN and Equal Opportunities Policy.

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of the school to increase access to education for disabled children in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled children can participate in the school curriculum.
- Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled children can take advantage of education and associated services.
- Improving the delivery to disabled children of information, which is provided in writing for children who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

Definition of disability:

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) as: a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

1. Key Objective

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

Our vision at Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre is:

For the children:

- To be welcomed into the school community
- To be valued as an individual
- To be offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiences that will enhance their skills and knowledge
- To be encouraged to be independent in their thinking and learning
- To learn through play and through first-hand experience
- To have access to a meaningful, focused, enjoyable curriculum
- To develop a sense of kindness and respectfulness

- To develop the qualities of confidence, enthusiasm and tolerance and perseverance
- To become prepared for the next stage of their education

For the mums, dads and carers:

- To be provided with a welcoming environment
- To be valued as individuals
- To have a positive experience of their children's first steps into the educational system
- To work in partnership with the school staff in a spirit of mutual respect, honesty and openness
- To be informed about the curriculum and experiences that are available in the Nursery
- To be aware of, and share in, the values of the school community.

It is our aim to remove, where possible and reasonable any barriers that may hinder a child or their family from realising our vision and aspiration for them.

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre's aims and equality plan and the operation of our SEND policy. We recognise our duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):

- Not to discriminate against disabled children in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
- Not to treat disabled children less favourably.
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled children at a substantial disadvantage.
- To publish an accessibility plan.

Current access:

All buildings at Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre are accessible and there are 4 disabled toilets across the site.

Action:

To improve the physical environment:

Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre is committed to evaluating and improving upon disabled access and will take account of the needs of children and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises.

Any specialist equipment or physical aids needed to access the curriculum will be purchased as required, if not already available in school. Professional advice may be requested for certain items. Improvement with respect to better use of colour in the decoration of the school and providing colour contrast will be addressed through the rolling programme for school redecoration.

To make improvements in the provision of information:

Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested. The school will provide this within a reasonable period of time and in a format taking into account the views expressed by children or mums, dads or carers about their preferred format.

To increase access to the curriculum:

Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre is responsible for providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all children and has a key role in planning to increase access to the curriculum for disabled children. The school already provides additional provision to enable children with learning difficulties to access the curriculum through the SEN framework. In focusing on this part of the duty Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre will consider the needs of a range of disabled children and prospective children. The school will continue to use a variety of approaches when planning and delivering the curriculum to draw on different strengths and aptitudes of individual children.

Review:

The Governor Premises Committee will be responsible for reviewing this accessibility plan. Consultation with the full governing body as well as the school staff will be on going and the update will go before the full governing body every 3 years. However, many of the ways in which the plans will need to adapt will depend on the disability which is presented and will be done as required. This plan will be available, on request.

Review April 2018