



CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Approved by:	LGB		
Responsible department:	Carlinghow Academy		
Last review date:	March 2025	Last reviewed by:	J.Fitzgerald
Last updated:	March 2025	Last updated by:	J.Fitzgerald
Next review due :	March 2026		

School Aims and Implementation

It is the primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued, respected and that each person is treated fairly. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual respect for all in line with our equality policy.

Carlinghow Academy aims to provide children the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable children to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

Under the Equality Act 2010 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:

- (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 will be reviewed every 3 years or where operational needs dictate and approved by the Governing Body.

At Carlinghow Academy 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.

Aims:

Our Aims are:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs
- To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils, staff and other members of the school community with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.
- Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

1) The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. 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 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. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Premises Committee. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

Carlinghow Academy is committed to providing 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 adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The Carlinghow Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Carlinghow Academy Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, adapting the curriculum as necessary.

This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits including residential trips – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a

reasonable timeframe (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010).

- 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;
- Where needed, adapt the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include adaptations to 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 timeframe.

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

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

- Health & Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy
- Trips and Residential Visits Policy

Current good practice

We gather information about any disability or health condition in early communications with parents and carers of children who are new to school. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided.

Physical Environment

The school is on one floor, there are no steps in the entire building other than the mezzanine, which is only accessed by staff on rare occasions to access storage. This is only accessed via a key for the sports cupboard from the school office. All doors are suitable for disabled access with double doors around school for ease of movement in wheelchairs. There are 4 disabled toilets in school with one on each phase corridor. Disabled pupils participate in outdoor learning and extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of outdoor learning and extracurricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible.

Curriculum

Through planning for individual need, we aim to provide an inclusive approach. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible. Pupils who make use of a wheelchair have an adapted desk in the classroom to allow them to work with their peers.

We seek advice and support from the relevant professionals in order to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available as needs are identified to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is provided in a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff as needed.

Access Audit

The school is housed in a 1 storey building. The school has wide double doors to ensure all wheelchair users have access to move around school. Corridors have hand rails to allow access for movement. Each classroom is large enough for wheelchair access.

The school has dedicated disabled parking for blue badge holders. There are disabled toilet facilities throughout school. These are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Personalised evacuation plans are put in place as required.

Management, coordination and implementation and review

- We consult with other professionals and services when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- The Governors and Senior Leadership Team work closely with the Local Authority.
- We work closely with parents to consider their children's needs.
- The policy is reviewed annually and/or as children's needs change.
- The annual review is then shared with staff.
- We make links with other schools to share best practice through regular SENDCo network meetings and other communications as needed.

Complaints

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Headteacher. The SEND governor or chair of governors may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

Action Plan

Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability, medical condition or other access needs. Provision may include: Liaison with specialists, CPD for staff, a differentiated curriculum, specialist resources to support learning and access to the curriculum, a range of support staff including trained teaching assistants and access arrangements in place for statutory testing.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To liaise with pre-school providers to prepare for the new intake of children into Foundation each year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	May to July annually	HT EYFS Leader and teachers	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To liaise with educational establishments to prepare for the intake of new children who transfer within year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	Ongoing as need arises	HT & Deputy/SENCo	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To review policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	SLT & Governors	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
To include pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs as fully as possible in the wider curriculum including trips and residential visits as well as extracurricular provision	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual children. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo and all teaching staff, extracurricular service providers and educational visits settings	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made

	actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out			
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Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo, all teaching staff and site manager	As full as possible inclusion for all pupils. Safe evacuation in an emergency

Aim 3: Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for parents with a disability, medical condition or other access needs so as they can fully support their child's education	Adopt a proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of parents and make reasonable adjustments where possible	Ongoing	Whole school team	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made, so that parents can fully support their children in their education.