



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

Issued: September 2018
Review: Term 1 annually
LST: AWI

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY & PLAN

1. RATIONALE

This plan is needed to help improve access to and around school sites principally for pupils and also for staff, visitors and other site users. This plan extends to all potential school users who have physical impairments which may restrict their access around the school. It also seeks to ensure that school documentation is accessible to all.

The Trust is committed to equal opportunities and in supporting every individual to achieve their personal best. Accordingly it is appropriate that the schools work to remove barriers to learning for all pupils, including those with physical disabilities.

2. PURPOSES

This plan is designed to increase access around the school sites in the following three aspects:

- School curriculum
- Physical environment
- School information

3. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

- The termly health and safety 'site walk' will be extended to monitor and evaluate disabled access and, where applicable, include this in the school's health and safety action plan
- The periodic review of the SEN department within each school's self-evaluation procedures will include a review of access to the curriculum. The SENCo in each school will monitor the progress of pupils with disabilities and will plan appropriate intervention where there is underachievement. The SENCo will also make representations and recommendations to the Headteacher/CEO where additional resources are needed to improve access for disabled pupils.
- A report from the Accessibility Plan section of the Premises Development Plan will be submitted annually to the Trust.

4. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

a. Curriculum

- The SEN team in each school work to provide access to the curriculum for pupils with special educational needs. Individual Education Plans are drawn up and appropriate support provided dependent on the needs of the individual
- All pupils are entitled to access extra-curricular activities and judgments are made when the need arises as to the appropriateness of each activity, based on a risk assessment.
- The Senior Leadership Team member responsible for Curriculum Enrichment tracks any enrichment programme or activity for uptake by disadvantaged groups

b. Physical environment

- The plan covers improvements to the physical environment where these are necessary, practical and affordable

c. Provision of information

- The SEN team work to provide access to school information for pupils with special educational needs where these needs are not met by the pastoral system
- The SENCo samples school information sent to parents to assess readability and makes recommendations to the Headteacher for improvements

d. Co-ordination

- Related MNSP Trust documents:
 - Health & Safety policy
 - SEN policy
 - Equal Opportunities policy
 - School Improvement Plan
- The SEN team makes regular use of a wide range of external agencies to provide support for pupils with barriers to learning.

e. Access to the development accessibility plan

- The MNSP Trust development accessibility plan is available on request

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Trust has responsibility for agreeing this policy and plan and receiving reports on its implementation
- The Local Governing Body and Headteacher have responsibility for ensuring the overall implementation of the plan
- The SENCo has responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the SEN aspects of the plan
- The Site Manager has responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the physical improvement aspects of the plan

The schools in the Trust were built between 1911 and 2016 and access to some areas is difficult. The number of pupils at some schools with mobility difficulties has always been zero or very low, as Writhlington School is the designated school in B&NES for disabled access at Secondary phase. Pupils with learning difficulties are covered in the SEN policy.

Clutton Primary School recent improved access work

- Refurbishment of toilet facilities
- Disabled access ramps are provided at the Schools Main Entrance
- Lowered kerbs are provided at the exit from the car park.
- New lighting in school for better visibility



Dundry Primary

- Resurfacing of ramps to mobile classrooms
- Redesign of outdoor EYFS area including new wheelchair friendly access from classroom



Farrington Gurney Primary School recent improved access work

- A disabled ramp is provided at the entrance to the back of the school playground
- A disabled WC is available in the Phoenix Block (FS/KS1)
- New office and better access to HT office for PD children, staff and parents



High Littleton Church of England Primary School recent improved access work

- Refurbishment of toilet facilities
- Stair lift installed to provide access between EYFS/KS1 and KS2 areas
- Resurfacing of play area to reduce slips
- Disabled access ramps are provided at the school main entrance
- Lowered kerbs are provided at the exit from the car park.



Longvernal School

- New nursery area with ramps installed
- Building re-design for improve access and new disabled toileting facilities



Midsomer Norton Primary School recent improved access work

- New classroom doors
- Wheelchair access to the side of old building and throughout new building
- New electronic gates to improve access for PD children and parents



Shoscombe and St Julians

- St Julian's Church School and Shoscombe Church School were built between 1830 and 1850 and access to some areas is difficult. The number of pupils with mobility difficulties has always been zero or very low, however all efforts will be made to ensure any pupil with accessibility needs can access a full and balanced curriculum. Writhlington School is the designated school in B&NES for disabled access at Secondary phase. Pupils with learning difficulties are covered in the SEN policy.



Trinity Church School

- Improved access to playing field
- New path to reading nook



Welton Primary

- New EYFS area with hard surface to allow improved access for children with a physical difficulty
- New security door improving safeguarding



Norton Hill School recent improved access work

- The school has in place audible warning systems for fire alarm and lesson change times.
- A system is in place for dealing with repair and maintenance issues of the building, fixtures, fittings and furniture.
- Disabled access ramps are provided at the Main Entrance, the Technology block and the Music Block which will also allow disabled access to that building and the ground floor of the upper school block.
- Disabled toilet facilities are available in the Main and Technology blocks.
- Some decorating has been done specifically to improve the awareness of visually impaired persons including painting of the edges of some steps etc.
- The lighting in the Main Block, Technology rooms, Media Centre and the new Music Block has been designed to take account of visually impaired persons.
- Spaces are reserved in the main car park for disabled users.
- Lowered kerbs are provided at the exit from the car park.
- Removal of three temporary classrooms.
- Improvements to lighting in the upper school block.



Somervale School recent improved access work

Curriculum Access:

- The Assistant Headteacher responsible for Curriculum Enrichment now tracks all any enrichment programme or activity for uptake by disadvantaged groups



Site Access:

- All new works including refurbishment is fully compliant with legislation regarding disabled access. This work falls under part M of the building regulations
- Any new paintwork to walls, ceilings, doors, pillars and any switches etc will be compliant with part M of the regulations
- All new signage will be universal signs (picture/symbol and instruction) and compliant with the regulations
- For the work being proposed for the new stage in the school hall, handrails will be fitted on the access steps and a disabled lift is currently being costed
- An updated Site Risk / Security Assessment will be produced by the Site Manager in September 2010
- Staff with a role in site security, access and fire drill procedures have been clearly identified in the school's 'Safeguarding: Roles & Responsibilities' grid, established in February 2010 and updated annually

Health & Safety:

- Upper Block stairs have been re-covered in suitable carpet

St Dunstan's School recent improved access work



- Refurbishment of toilet facilities in the Main block.
- Disabled access ramps are provided at the Schools Main Entrance
- Lowered kerbs are provided at the exit from the car park.
- The school has in place audible warning systems for fire alarm and lesson change times.
- A system is in place for dealing with repair and maintenance issues of the building, fixtures, fittings and furniture.
- Disabled access ramps are provided in the Main block, Lucas block, Music and Drama block, Hall and PE area.
- There is lift access to the upper floor of the Main Block and Science block
- Disabled toilet facilities are available in the Main and Lucas blocks.
- Some decorating has been done specifically to improve the awareness of visually impaired persons including painting of the edges of some steps etc.
- The lighting in the Main Block, Technology rooms, and the Mendip block has been designed to take account of visually impaired persons.
- Spaces are reserved in the main car park for disabled users.
- Carpet has been fitted in the main block, Science block and Mendip block.