




Yewstock School

Accessibility Plan

2024-2027

Date reviewed by FE&P	26.02.2024	Policy Type	Statutory
Date adopted by FGB	11.03.2024	Review Cycle	2 Years
Date of next Review	25.02.2026	Signed by Chair of Governors	
			

Introduction

The Equality Act of 2010 requires every school to have an Accessibility Plan. We have three key duties:

- Increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils
- To improve the physical environment of the school to increase access for disabled pupils
- Make written information more accessible to disabled pupils by providing information in a range of ways

A person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to undertake normal daily activities.

This plan details the aims of the Governing Body of Yewstock Special School to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three required areas.

Aims

Yewstock School wants everyone in the school community to feel included and valued. We plan, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as all pupils. This covers 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 covers the provision of specialist **aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve 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.
- Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, 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.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached will be a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

Vision and values

Yewstock School will be:

'A special place to learn, where all can achieve and be valued.'

Our five core values are:

- Communicate well
- Show respect
- Be kind, caring and considerate
- Find joy in learning
- Strive for excellence

One of the school's main aims is to identify and remove barriers for disabled pupils in every area of school life.

We try to achieve this by

- setting suitable learning challenges
- responding to pupil's diverse needs
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment

All pupils participate fully in all aspects of school life. These opportunities include sporting and adventurous activities, art and creative work, residential trips and a broad range of accreditation routes.

Yewstock School has an inclusive ethos and welcomes all children and visitors to the school regardless of need. Because of the nature of our pupils, the school has good physical access, in terms of its buildings, though some are aging, this does not lessen our desire to improve and develop the curriculum, the environment generally and the ways in which we provide information to parents and the wider school community.

We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act, and challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility. We work actively to develop a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

Our current good practice

a. Identification

Yewstock School requests information on disabilities or other conditions in early communications with parents and carers new to the school. Progress is observed closely and any concerns are shared as necessary.

b. Curriculum

The school continually strives to improve access to the curriculum for pupils with disabilities in various ways, by:

- Using a range of technology to enable improved access for pupils, including the use of large keyboards, iPads, interactive touchscreens and eye gaze technology
- Adapting and differentiating the curriculum for individual pupils, and providing additional support and resources where required
- Modifying resources and curriculum activities into accessible formats e.g. font size
- Organising classrooms so that they are accessible and encourage independence
- Offer regular training to staff to develop their awareness of conditions and how the impact on pupils, such as hearing and visual impairment, ASD, epilepsy, attachment and sensory impairments

c. Physical environment

Yewstock School makes modifications to improve the physical environment for disabled pupils by:

- Improving ramped access to external classrooms
- Improving ramped access to social areas
- Improving playground surfaces
- Installing accessible play equipment, such as a wheelchair accessible equipment, bucket swing and outdoor gym equipment
- Providing accessible sensory equipment or curriculum and recreational use
- Modifying toilets to meet requirements, and including hygiene rooms in new buildings and classrooms, including hoist access
- Adding visibility markings on steps
- Improving the lighting in corridors and classrooms and making good use of natural light
- Maintaining a safe environment through routine repairs and safety inspections, resulting in reduction of hazards
- Maintaining a programme of acoustic works in classrooms to improve sound quality
- Ensuring disabled dedicated parking bays on both school and college sites

d. Information

Yewstock School aims to make all written information accessible to disabled pupils by:

- Modifying written information so that the format is appropriate for pupils with a disability or visual impairment
- Taking regular advice from specialist teachers for hearing and visual impairment regarding the layout of written information
- Using visual schedules, social stories and symbols for key information
- Providing easy read versions of information where requested or necessary

Implementation

Our Accessibility Plan describes how we will improve the identified areas for people with a disability, including pupils, staff and visitors. It explains how we will make reasonable adjustments to support them. Reasonable adjustments are positive actions which help pupils with a disability to fully participate in school life.

Our Accessibility Plan has been written in conjunction with information received from pupils, parents and carers, and staff and Governors at Yewstock School. It will also advise other policies and plans within the school. Yewstock School will work in partnership with the Local Authority and adopt the principles from the Local Authority Strategy for Accessibility.

Monitoring

The Accessibility Plan is written to show developments over a three-year period. It will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and amended as necessary.

The Governing Body will monitor the school's activity and compliance with regard to the Equality Act 2010. The Complaints policy will be used in the event of a complaint about the Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility Plan complements other school policies and plans, including:

- SEN Policy and SEN information Report
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Health and Safety policy
- Behaviour policy
- School Development Plan

**YEWSTOCK SCHOOL
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2021-2024**

Yewstock School Accessibility plan - Improving access to the curriculum					
What we will do	How we will do this	Who will do this	When this will be done	Cost	How we will know this is successful
Ensuring that pupils who are disabled have equal access to off-site and residential visits	Carefully consider class groups each year to ensure appropriate physical environment and access to minibuses. Investigate alternative options for residential visits if accessibility is challenging.	Heads of Department and class teachers	Ongoing	Cost of residential visits to be calculated	No pupils will be disadvantaged by not being able to attend a visit or residential.
To develop staff skills, knowledge and understanding of sensory learning and integration to provide appropriate support to ensure full curriculum access	Sensory lead to provide advice to staff and access to the Rainbow Room. Purchase sensory set for each class Further staff training as identified.	Sensory Lead Attachment Lead	Half termly Summer 2024	Possible cost for resources £500	All pupils will have access to sensory equipment in class. Rainbow Room is accessible to pupils with disabilities.
Improve curriculum access for pupils through eye gaze software and equipment	Identify pupils who will benefit from access to eye gaze technology. Organise intervention with eye gaze lead TA to improve access to technology and aid communication.	Dept. Leaders Communication TA	Summer2024	Update for eye gaze software £1000	Identified pupils will develop their access to ICT through eye gaze technology which will also enhance their enjoyment and communication.
Develop staff knowledge of supporting pupils with hearing and visual impairment	Staff meeting lead by HI/VI advisor to give staff information and advice about supporting HI/VI.	HI service	Spring 2024	N/A	Pupils with a hearing /vision impairment will have their needs successfully met and full access to the curriculum.

Yewstock School Accessibility plan - Improving the physical environment					
What we will do	How we will do this	Who will do this	When this will be done	Cost	How we will know this is successful
Develop outdoor sensory learning and leisure opportunities	Research outdoor sensory equipment and purchase Install equipment in accessible sensory trail on school playground	Headteacher Site manager to oversee	Summer 2024	£To be confirmed	A sensory trail will be fully accessible to all pupils.
Refurbishment programme for classrooms to be fully accessible with latest hygiene facilities	Identify layout for access for disabled pupils Refurbish with fully accessible hygiene room Install new ramp access by side of classroom to improve safety	DCC, Richard Hunt	Summer 2025	N/A – DCC funded	Classrooms will be fully accessible for any pupils within the school.
Improve access to the Early Years garden area for pupils	Install new ramp from playground to garden area. Improve patio area and access to new raised beds and sandpit.	Richard Hunt	Summer 2025	£5000	Ramped access and raised bed in the Early Years garden allow access for all pupils.
Monitor access across the whole school site through site safety inspections, making adaptations as required	Termly site inspection by Governors Health and Safety committee will consider accessibility issues and make recommendations	Richard Hunt, Clive Padgett, H+S Governor, CoG, SFBM	Termly	N/A	Regular governor monitoring of site health and safety addresses any issues with accessibility for disabled pupils which is then addressed through the plan.

Yewstock School Accessibility plan - Improving accessibility of written information					
What we will do	How we will do this	Who will do this	When this will be done	Cost	How we will know this is successful
Review school brochure and website with mobile functionality to ensure information is easily share with parents and visitors	Review and update school brochure, reducing amount of text and using simpler language. Ensure website has refreshed and 'easy read' content, which functions across a range of devices. Ensure access to social media to engage community	Headteacher ICT Technician	On-Going	£000	School brochure is easily accessible to visitors and online via the website. School website is updated and compatible with various devices, with full accessibility options. Social Media is visible
Annual Review of signage across the school to ensure that written information is accessible for parents, carers and pupils	Conduct annual review of signage, display and written information in foyers to ensure all stakeholders are able to access information	Headteacher Site Manager Communication Leader Communication TA	Annually	£500	All signage, display and written information in foyers is accessible so that stakeholders are able to access information