

Broom Cottages Primary & Nursery School



Accessibility Plan

Approval Date: October 2025
Review Date: October 2026

Our Values and Ethos

At Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School, our vision is to provide high quality education, recognising individual talents and ensuring opportunities are provided for all children to reach their full potential by working together, learning together and growing together.

Our aim is to develop creative and independent learners with high aspirations for the future.

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 must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Headteacher. The Plan will form part of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

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 which reflects our school ethos. 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.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School 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 taking positive action in

the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

- 3) Our Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely 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 are the able-bodied pupils.

- 4) This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Local Authority, pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school and covers the period from June 2025 to June 2028.
- 5) We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
- 6) Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School plans, 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:
 - 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.
 - 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 are the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of the Equality Act 2010). 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 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.

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of our ongoing discussions and we have an open and genuine relationship with our parents.

Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical needs.

There are no parts of the building which children or adults with physical impairments cannot access.

There are few areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils could have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example:

P.E. for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Other issues affect the participation of disabled pupils, for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten. We are a communication friendly environment. Inclusion is at the heart of our practice.

- 7) Attached are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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)
 - Inclusion
 - Special Needs and Disabilities Information Report and Policy
 - Behaviour Management
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Asset Management Plan
 - School Brochure and school values
 - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
 - Staff Handbook and Code of Conduct
- 10) The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly by the Local Authority. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this first Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each first three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.

Building adaptations and resources:

- Disabled parking
- Automatic wide doors operated by push button
- Ramps into the front of the main building and nursery

- Lift running between floors
- Evac chair
- Accessibility ramps throughout the building
- Disabled toilets on both floors used by the school
- Electronic lifting equipment in one disabled toilet
- Zig zag ramp leading from the ground floor to the first floor
- Double doors leading into all main areas of the school
- Double height hand rails in some areas of the school
- Extra width toilet cubicles in foundation stage
- Fold down changing facilities in nursery
- SEND pupils are accompanied around school to ensure individual needs are met.
- Access to the sensory room
- Relocation of classes to alternative rooms to ensure that a SEND child/ any person could access the disabled toilet of the first floor more easily (as necessary).
- Provision of specialist assistance for identified children. Staff meet them at Reception or on the yard and accompany them to their classroom.
- Hoist provided in swimming pool to ensure SEND pupils access their full curriculum entitlement.
- Colour contrast handrails (spindles are painted a different colour to the handrail).

The Key Stage 2 teaching areas are on the first floor that is accessible by a lift and a ramp.

On-site car parking for staff and visitors will include dedicated disabled parking bays. All main entrances to the school are flat and all have wide doors fitted. Some classrooms have direct access to the outdoors with single doors.

The main entrance features a secure lobby with a low counter (72cms) to assist wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities available for children and adults, these are not fitted with handrails. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked, this does include a refuge area outside the lift for wheelchair users. Push button access for front doors.

11) As curriculum policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added to that on Equality and Diversity. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will contain an item on "having regard to matters relating to Access".

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

12) The School Brochure will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.

13) The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

14) The Plan will be monitored through the Curriculum and Standards and Finance & Premises Committees of the Governing Body.

15) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority.

16) We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

17) The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

Improving the Physical Access at Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School

An Access Audit was carried out by Miss Hockaday, School Business Manager and Mrs Shannon SENDCO in June 2025 and a number of recommendations made:

Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost £
Accessible car parking	Bays to be signed in accordance with Part M standards Ensure painting is kept up to date	By December 2026	£100
Doors	Anti-glare film to be applied to the main doors	By December 2025	£50
Improve Reception facilities	The counter is lowered to a maximum height of 800mm, with knee-space under.	Counter is currently 72cm. To be reviewed if needed.	
Light switches, power outlets and emergency alarm buttons	To be moved to wheelchair height, as money allows.	As funding is available	
Adapted wash basins to be at wheelchair height with space under for wheelchair to allow user to get close to wash basin.	To be moved to wheelchair height, as money allows.	As funding is available	
Access to swimming pool	Provision of a ramp to the swimming pool	As funding is available	
Appropriate furniture	As furniture is replaced consider the needs of pupils	Ongoing	

Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

Improving the Curriculum Access at Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Ongoing training for teaching staff on differentiating the curriculum and providing opportunities for children despite barriers to learning based on the Curriculum 2014 requirements.	Monitoring and assessment of learning and teaching to inform SLT of training needs for whole team and individual members of staff.	All teachers differentiate and adapt teaching and learning in order to address barriers to learning for all children including those identified with Special Needs and Disabilities.	Ongoing as part of whole school monitoring, assessment and school improvement.	All children can access and succeed under the Curriculum 2014 outcomes.
All after school clubs, breakfast clubs and educational visits are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with Equality Act 2010 and Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 0-25years (September 2014) legislation	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements. Individual risk assessments, where appropriate will be undertaken in order to ensure the safeguarding of the whole school community.	Ensure that all out of hours provision is open to all and engenders inclusivity on an ongoing basis.	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils. Staff rearrange furniture based on the needs of the pupils within the lessons.	Ongoing based on individual class needs.	Increase in access to the National Curriculum

Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

Improving the Delivery of Written Information at Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery School

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA and using appropriate technology for converting written information into alternative formats.	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	Ongoing	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats.	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it Google translate function on the website can be accessed.	All school information available for all	Ongoing, include use of digital formats to assist.	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved. Available on website as well as on weekly newsletters.
Staff in school will communicate with pupils/ visitors/parents/carers and other professionals in a sensitive and appropriate way for that individual.	Arrange training courses if a need is identified. Staff support if a different approach is needed.	Awareness of target group raised	Through regular face to face meetings, written and verbal communication. Use of website and gateway to inform and communicate.	School is more effective in meeting the needs of the school community.
To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010		Ongoing 2025/26	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.

Improve physical aspects of school environment	The school will take account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Enabling needs to be met where possible.	Ongoing	Any areas identified as requiring improvement are dealt with asap
Ensure visually stimulating environment for all children	Colourful, lively displays in classrooms and inviting role play areas.	Teaching and support staff ensure the lively and inviting environment is maintained.	Ongoing	Display used effectively as a teaching and learning tool.
Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	Staff to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of SEN Support Plan process • ensure that any information relating to parents/carers access needs are met. • ensure that roles and responsibilities are allocated e.g. Mini Police, buddies, peer mentors and monitors etc. 	Staff to enable needs to be met where possible.	With immediate effect, to be constantly reviewed	Enabling needs to be met where possible.

To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent interviews, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual plans and protocols where needed	Staff to meet pupil needs	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Individual needs are met
Ensuring disabled parents/carers have every opportunity to be involved	Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents/carers	Needs are met	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed by the whole school team.	To ensure that disabled parents/carers are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education
To improve community links	School to continue to have strong links with schools in Durham Authority and the wider community.	All staff Improved awareness of disabilities/the wider community of Ferryhill and the world and their needs	Ongoing	Improved community cohesion
Continue to develop playgrounds and facilities which could be suitable for all.	Regular review of grounds and premises	All pupils are able to play in a suitable environment	Ongoing as capital and budget allows	Inclusive child-friendly play areas
To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe as possible.	Communication with parents via safety messages /letters/walk to school week/signage Bikeability for children	Pupils are kept safe	Ongoing	No accidents