

Accessibility plan

The Beacon Church of England (V.A.) Primary School



To be Approved by: Resources Committee

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Next review due by: December 2027

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1. Aims

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

The Beacon Church of England (V.A.) Primary School strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treat each other with respect. Pupils should be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and value diversity. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to improving the equality of opportunity for those within the school community who have a disability and to embedding a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. We shall not discriminate or treat our school community any differently for reasons of race, gender reassignment, sex, disability, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, or sexual orientation. We shall make reasonable adjustments as required under the Equalities Act 2010 for disabled people. Under the Equalities Act 2010 a disabled person is defined as when a person has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan, including Devon County Council and the Diocese of Exeter.

Our school's complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this accessibility plan, including Governors of the school, pupils, parents and staff.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on their ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

3. Action plan

This action plan sets out the aims of our accessibility plan in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Increasing Access to the Curriculum				
Target	Actions	Resources/ Person responsible	Time frame	Success Criteria
Hearing loop system for hall if required (not currently identified as a requirement)	Investigate use of hearing loop system in the Hall to help with hearing impairments	Resources committee	To be aware and considered if needed.	Hearing loop system is costed and sources of funding have been identified
Keep under review the availability of assistive technology / AI	Keep up-to-date with specialist advice	EK, AB, EC and curriculum leads	Ongoing	Staff CPD needs is continually reviewed and actioned according to the needs of students and advancement of technology/ AI use
Improving the Physical Environment of School				
Target	Actions	Resources/ Person responsible	Time frame	Success Criteria
Replace remaining fluorescent lights with led lights/ cover with filters	Installation of new lighting system in hall.	See premises plan	December 2027	Updated lighting system is in place.
Continue discussions with Devon County Council regarding improved access to school site by widening pavements, narrowing road, possibility of dropped kerbs by the school gates to improve safety and access for all.	Consult with East Devon District Council	Resources committee EDDC	Led by Devon County Council, (requested already in Summer 2021.)	Improved safety for all outside school grounds in Bicton Place and Little Bicton Place.

There are many steps on site, and those with significant mobility issues would be facilitated by use of the classrooms on the lower site where there is access to a disabled toilet / changing room and ramps to provide accessibility	Consider placing an entry system by the staff doors at wheelchair friendly height. Continue to review needs of individuals.	Resources Committee	3 years / as required	Plan and costing information is available
Remaining doorways and rooms/hallways are redecorated the doorframes will be painted a contrasting colour to provide clearer direction – and to support those with VI	Redecoration of school admin and offices block.	See premises plan	December 2027	Improved visibility for those with VI.
Improving the Delivery of Information to Disabled Members of One Big Beacon Family				
Target	Actions	Resources/ Person responsible	Time frame	Success Criteria
Make written school communication easier to understand	Use Widget visual symbols as needed	Office Staff Class teachers – TT for parents as required	By July 2025	Parents report that the visual information is helpful
Other				
Supporting fatigue-levels of staff with chronic illness	Reduced hours, time to work at home given when appropriate	AB	Ongoing - By July 2025	Staff do ask if they need support

4. Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every **three** years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

It will be approved by the Resources Committee.

5. Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessments (potentially all RAs)
- Health and safety policy
- Equality information and objectives (public sector equality duty) statement for publication
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) information report
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- SEND policy
- Teaching and learning policy
- Behaviour policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- Admissions policy
- School improvement plan
- Policy for school trips and excursions
- School asset management plan
- Exclusions policy

Appendix 1: Accessibility audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	Two, with multiple levels across the school	Monitor needs. Decisions to be taken as need arises, not current need.	EK / AB	n/a
Corridor access	Some access from some doors where there are no steps.	Monitor needs. Decisions to be taken as need arises, not current need.	EK / AB	n/a
Lifts	None on site			
Parking bays	No vehicle access to site. No parking on or close to school site.			
Entrances	Narrow gateways and doors, multiple levels	Monitor needs. Decisions to be taken as need arises, not current need.	EK / AB	n/a
Ramps	None on site.			
Toilets	1 disabled toilet	Awareness that users would need to go outside and back through a different entrance to access the toilet from the main block of school. Would need to form part of RA/ intimate care plan were a person to require it.	AB / EK	n/a

Reception area	No easy access due to building constraints. Has hearing induction loop.			
Internal signage	Minimal in place at present	Need to be monitored and adaptations made as required	EK / AB	n/a
Emergency escape routes	PEEPS in place	Monitored	EK/ TW	ongoing