



# **NEWBOROUGH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Accessibility Policy**

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## **Aim**

The school is committed to ensuring equal treatment of all its students, employees and any others involved in the school community, with any form of disability and will ensure that people with disabilities are not treated less favourably in any procedures, practices and service delivery.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people with disabilities can participate fully in school life. The achievement of students with disabilities will be monitored and this data will be used to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. Reasonable adjustments will be made to make sure that the whole school environment is as accessible as possible. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach, and visit the school.

Our Accessibility Policy has been written in line with legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review, and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Policy over a prescribed period.

1. Newborough Church of England Primary School's Accessibility Policy has been revised to reflect new statutory requirements for the setting of Equality Objectives.

2. Our Accessibility Policy is structured to complement and support the school's Single Equality Policy, which under a single umbrella covers

- Race
- Disability
- Gender & gender reassignment
- Pregnancy & maternity
- Age
- Religion and Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Special Educational Need
- Community cohesion and is published on the school website.

3. This may be monitored by the LA under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and may advise upon the compliance with that duty. We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all students, 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.

4. Newborough Church of England Primary School's Accessibility Policy shows how access is to be improved for disabled students, staff and visitors to the school and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Policy will contain relevant and timely actions to:

- Ensure access to the curriculum for all our students, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students are as equally prepared for life; this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs and cultural activities or school visits - it also covers the provision of specialist equipment, which may assist these students 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 within a reasonable timeframe.
- Improve the delivery of written information to staff, parents / carers and visitors with disabilities; examples might include the website, handouts, timetables, newsletters, texts and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

5. The Accessibility Policy relates to the key aspects of the physical environment, curriculum and to written information.

6. 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.

7. The Accessibility Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Continuing Professional Development Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Behaviour and Exclusions Policy
- School evaluation and planning documents.

8. The Accessibility Policy relates to the continued review of the school buildings. Improvement plans are subsequently updated by the school and remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all the works during the life of this Accessibility Policy and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent policies.

The improvement plan will be reviewed and updated by the school prior to the end of each period covering this policy.

9. The school's complaints procedure will take account of the Accessibility Policy.

10. The Accessibility Policy will be published on the school website.

11. The Accessibility Policy will be monitored through the Governor Standards and Finance and Resources Committee.

12. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Policy.

13. The Accessibility Policy may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

#### **We will raise awareness of this plan via:**

- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- Personalised tours for new parents

#### **Inclusion**

Newborough Church of England Primary School will consult with students with disabilities, staff and service users in the ongoing development of the Disability Equality Scheme by:

- Annual Reviews with SEN students and their parents
- Analysis of available school disability data
- Analysis of a range of Local Authority / Specialist Organisations reports which examined the experiences of students with disabilities
- Meeting with parents at consultation evenings / SEND drop-in sessions / annual parent/carer questionnaires
- and users of school buildings.

#### **Developing a voice for students, staff and parent / carers with disabilities**

Newborough Church of England Primary School is developing opportunities for students with disabilities, staff and parents / carers by:

- Including students and parents / carers in review meetings
- Including students and parents / carers in school questionnaires
- Class teachers discussing issues regularly with students

- Use of the School Council
- Having a cycle of agenda items at Governing Body meetings to discuss issues
- Partnership with other organisations.

### **Encouraging participation in public life by people with disabilities.**

Newborough Church of England Primary School ensures that students with disabilities are represented and encouraged to participate in:

- Assemblies
- Lunchtime eating and activities
- PE lessons/sports activities
- Forest School
- After- school clubs
- School trips / wider learning opportunities
- Residential Trips
- School council
- Governing body

Students with disabilities are included fully in normal school life. However, as with all students, risk assessments may be undertaken to ensure the safety of all participants in any activity.

### **Removing barriers to learning.**

Newborough Church of England Primary School removes barriers by:

- Not excluding students with disabilities from school trips.
- Wheelchair access bus/coach transport is used if required.
- Risk assessments are carried out for chosen trip locations.
- Having appropriate furniture available to provide necessary support where required.
- Operating a Teaching and Learning Policy that requires all lessons to be differentiated to accommodate the capabilities and disabilities of students. Teachers are provided with information specific to individual students.
- Ensuring students with disabilities have access to extra-curricular activities.
- Should it become necessary, signing and communication aids for students will be made available.
- Should it become necessary, a sound loop/sound field for hearing impaired students will be installed.
- Teachers adapting, where possible, resources and techniques to suit a wide range of learners.
- All students having equal access to resources. Provision is made for all abilities and specialised resources are available for SEND students where appropriate and/or recommended by a professional.
- Having strong links with external partners e.g. Advisers, Behaviour Support Service, Social Service, Health Service, Speech and Language therapists, Specialist teachers.
- Using external professionals to support where appropriate.
- Regular staff INSET/CPD opportunities on teaching students with additional needs.
- Disabled parking bays
- Playground equipment and seating
- Development of the sensory room
- Coded doors which remain closed and locked during the school day
- Disabled toilets
- School building is on one level with no stairs to enable access for all