



Bracken Hill School

Accessibility Policy and Plan

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Policy Type: Whole School

This policy is reviewed every three years to ensure compliance with current regulations

The Governors of the school recognise that all staff play a vital role in the achievement of high standards and in providing our pupils with the best opportunities matched to their needs.

Rationale

This document reflects the values and philosophy of Bracken Hill School in relation to Accessibility. This Accessibility Policy and Plan is guided by The Equality Act 2010, and should be read in conjunction with our Single Equality Policy, SEND Policy and the Bracken Hill School Local Offer document.

The aim of the Accessibility Plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which our pupils with the range of SEND can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of Bracken Hill School to enable our pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to our range of pupils, with their particular and individual barriers to learning

The Accessibility plan is a statutory document that schools must have in place, and as such, is a working document for Bracken Hill School. Recommendations and targets are addressed through the Bracken Hill School Development Plan, and relevant Self- Evaluation Form (SDP: SEF).

It is approved by the Governing Body, and delegated to the responsibility of the Head teacher. It is reviewed every three years.

Audience

The Policy and Plan, containing information on accessibility adjustments, are communicated and available to parents/ carers/ prospective parents, carers / allied professionals and the wider public via the Bracken Hill School website. The document is also shared with the whole staff body via the school portal.

Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers that may prevent or hinder access to education so that all students can fully access our school site, our curriculum and all extra-curricular activities.

Principles

The school provides all pupils with a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils, including:

- setting suitable yet challenging learning objectives
- responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- overcoming potential barriers to learning, and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils

The school recognises and values parents'/carers' knowledge of their child's SEND and its effect on her/his ability to carry out everyday activities, and respects the parents'/carers' and child's right to confidentiality. Both parents/carers and our pupils have been consulted about their thoughts on the Accessibility at Bracken Hill School. (Both sets of questionnaire's and analysis are located in the Accessibility file)

Achieving the Objectives

This section outlines the main activities, which the school undertakes, and is planning to undertake, to achieve the key objective outlined above.

a) Education & related activities

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, and other external professionals that can support the school to ensure equality of access and developmental achievement commensurate with their potential ability.

b) Physical environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with additional physical needs and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, colour schemes, and more accessible facilities, services and fittings. As detailed elsewhere, the age, fabric and limited space have a major impact on the potential development of the school premises. Bracken Hill School, in conjunction with the LA will aim to minimise such limitations.

c) Provision of information

The school will continue to work with local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Targets	Existing Strategies	Actions	Outcome	Timeframe	Achieved
Equality and Inclusion					
<i>To ensure that the accessibility plan becomes an annual item at senior leadership meetings.</i>	On going reviews of all curriculum pathways to ensure that curriculum best meets the needs of the students.	Request for CA/HB to add it as an annual item.	Greater focus on accessibility during curriculum and whole school discussions during SLT meetings.	Sept 2023	
<i>To improve staff awareness of disability issues.</i>	CPD opportunities available for all staff	Continue to review opportunities for staff CPD linked to the needs of our students.	Staff are able to adapt approach to ensure that all students can fully access all elements of their education at Bracken Hill School.	Ongoing	
<i>To ensure that staff can support students' medical issues to minimise disruption to learning.</i>	Medication trained staff. Specific staff allocated to support individual medical needs. Two staff allocated medication leader roles.	Review new intake of students to identify any medical needs which require support.	All students are support with their medical needs so that we minimise impact on learning.	Ongoing	
<i>To establish a range of external accreditations</i>	Students assessed using Solar. Range of appropriate qualifications available.	Compare our curriculum offer to other local SEN schools or those within Esteem to identify and additional qualifications that may be appropriate.	Students leave Bracken Hill School with a range of appropriate qualifications to best prepare them for transition to further education of employment.	Dec 2023	
<i>To ensure financial access to uniform and school supplies</i>	Uniform is flexible and affordable. Link to purchase included within website. Secord hand uniform available for students whenever required. Regular communication with home to discreetly support wherever required.	Continue to review during current economic climate.	All student regardless of economic background can feel fully included at Bracken Hill School.	Ongoing	

<i>To ensure that all students are able to access out of school activities including; extra-curricular clubs, educational visits and residential.</i>	Termly review of activities. All curriculum visits available for all students. Flexibility in approach to support all students to access a residential experience wherever possible.	Map curriculum visits and residential to support us to identify areas of strength and areas to develop.	Continued development of our extra-curricular offer including educational visits and residential so that all students can access these wherever they wish.	Termly	
<i>To review each pathway to ensure that curriculum provides appropriate challenge for all students regardless of need.</i>	Curriculum plans reviewed annually by subject co-ordinators.	Establish use of full AET framework to capture student progress within Explorer pathway.	Continued development of the Bracken Hill Curriculum to ensure best outcomes for students.	July 2024	
<i>To ensure staff are supported to develop their confidence using technology to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.</i>	Access to school laptops. Planned time in class teams. ICT technician onsite.	Develop program of support/signposting for staff who are less confident using ICT.	Staff will feel more confident using ICT and will be better able to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.	July 2024	
Physical Environment					
<i>To ensure that wherever possible the school buildings and grounds are accessible for all students and adults and continue to improve access to the school's physical environment for all.</i>	Regular health and safety reviews of site. Designated playgrounds and staffing. Ramp access to all parts of main school site and lift access within post 16 block.	Ensure that new build plans and furnishings meet the needs of students.	Students and staff have full access to all areas of our site.	Ongoing	
<i>To arrange and support access to specialist equipment to promote participation in learning by all pupils.</i>	Ensure specialist providers are clearly briefed on needs of students prior to booking. Subject co-ordinators to ensure range of appropriate resources to engage students.	Continue to review use of equipment to identify if any additional resources are required.	Students and staff can access all activities within our curriculum using specialist equipment wherever possible.	Ongoing	

Written/Other Information					
<i>To ensure that all parents and any other members of the school community can access information.</i>	Use of Seesaw to support home-school communication. User friendly website.	Review use of signs/symbols on website. Develop consistent use of Seesaw across class groups.	Parents are aware of and can access required information within an appropriate timeframe.	Ongoing	
<i>To review opportunities and methods for meaningfully capturing student voice.</i>	Strong class teams. Annual surveys. Use of signs and symbols.	Discussion within SLT meeting. Allocation of staff lead.	All students have the opportunity to freely share their ideas and opinions.	Ongoing	
<i>To establish appropriate methods of communication with all parents.</i>	Use of Seesaw to support home-school communication.	Develop additional links with translation services to better allow us to support parents with English as an additional language.	Improved consistency in home school communication.		