

Accessibility Plan

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date plan last reviewed: | 22nd November 2022 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Signed by: | | | |
|  | Headteacher | Date: | 11th January 2023 |
|  | Chair of governors | Date: | 11th January 2023 |

Last updated: 22 August 2022

**Contents:**

[Statement of intent](#statementofintent)

1. [Legal framework](#Legalframework)
2. [Roles and responsibilities](#Rolesandresponsibilities)
3. [The Accessibility Audit](#Accessibilityadit)
4. [Planning duty 1: Curriculum](#_Planning_duty_1:)
5. [Planning duty 2: Physical environment](#_Planning_duty_2:_1)
6. [Planning duty 3: Information](#_Planning_duty_3:)
7. [Monitoring and review](#_Monitoring_and_review_1)

**Statement of intent**

This plan outlines how Tor School aims to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the curriculum, physical environment and information).

A person is regarded as having a disability under the Equality Act where they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This plan aims to:

* Demonstrate the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
* Ensure the physical environment of the school to enable pupils with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
* Ensure the availability of accessible information to pupils with disabilities.

The above aims will be delivered within a reasonable timeframe, and in ways which are determined after taking into account pupils’ disabilities and the views of parents and pupils.

The governing board also recognises its responsibilities towards employees with disabilities and will:

* Monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with equal opportunities.
* Provide appropriate support and provision for employees with disabilities to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively without barriers.
* Undertake reasonable adjustments to enable staff to access the workplace.

The plan will be resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised in consultation with:

* Pupils’ parents.
* The headteacher and other relevant members of staff.
* Governors.
* External partners.

1. **Legal framework**

This plan has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

* Human Rights Act 1998
* The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
* Education and Inspections Act 2006
* Equality Act 2010
* Education Act 1996
* Children and Families Act 2014
* The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
* DfE (2014) ‘The Equality Act 2010 and schools’
* DfE (2015) ‘Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’

This plan operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

* Equality Information and Objectives Policy
* Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
* Behaviour Policy
* Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
* Health and Safety Policy
* Data Protection Policy

1. **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board will be responsible for:

* Ensuring that all accessibility planning adheres to and reflects the principles outlined in this plan.
* Approving this plan before it is implemented.
* Monitoring this plan.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

* Ensuring that staff members are aware of pupils’ disabilities and medical conditions.
* Establishing whether a new pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.
* Consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils’ disabilities arise.
* Working closely with the governing board, LA and external agencies to effectively create and implement the school’s Accessibility Plan.

The SENCO will be responsible for:

* Working closely with the headteacher and governing board to ensure that pupils with SEND are appropriately supported.
* Ensuring they have oversight of the needs of pupils with SEND attending the school, and advising the headteacher in relation to those needs as appropriate.

Staff members will be responsible for:

* Acting in accordance with this plan at all times.
* Supporting disabled pupils to access their environment and their education wherever necessary, e.g. by making reasonable adjustments to their practice.
* Ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil as a result of their disability.

1. **The Accessibility Audit**

The governing board will undertake an bi-annual Accessibility Audit. The audit will cover the following three areas:

* **Access to the curriculum** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers.
* **Access to the physical environment** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the physical environment on an equal basis with their peers.
* **Access to information** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access information on an equal basis with their peers.

When conducting the audit, the governing board will consider all kinds of disabilities and impairments, including, but not limited to, the following:

* **Ambulatory disabilities** – this includes pupils who use a wheelchair or mobility aid
* **Dexterity disabilities** – this includes those whose everyday manual handling of objects and fixtures may be impaired
* **Visual disabilities** – this includes those with visual impairments and sensitivities
* **Auditory disabilities** – this includes those with hearing impairments and sensitivities
* **Comprehension** – this includes hidden disabilities, such as autism and dyslexia

The findings from the audit will be used to identify short-, medium- and long-term actions to address specific gaps and improve access.

All actions will be carried out in a reasonable timeframe, and after taking into account pupils’ disabilities and the preferences of their parents. The actions that will be undertaken are detailed in the following sections of this document.

# Planning duty 1: Curriculum

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Issue** | **What** | **Who** | **When** | **Outcome** | **Review** |
| **Short term** | Staff members do not know whether the curriculum is accessible | Audit of the curriculum | Headteacher, teachers, SENCO | Autumn 2022 | Management and teaching staff are aware of the accessibility gaps in the curriculum | Summer 2023 |
| Staff members do not have the skills to support pupils with SEND | INSET provided to staff members  Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum | Headteacher, external advisors, SENCO | Autumn 2022 | Staff members have the skills to support pupils with SEND | Summer 2023 |
| **Medium term** | School trips do not take into account pupils with SEND | Needs of pupils with SEND are incorporated into the planning process | Teachers, SENCO | Autumn 2022 | Planning of school trips takes into account pupils with SEND | Summer 2023 |
| **Long term** | Pupils with SEND cannot access lessons | Provide tablets and other adjustments for pupils with SEND | Headteacher, ICT manager, SENCO | Autumn 2022 | Pupils with SEND can access lessons | Summer 2023 |

# 

# Planning duty 2: Physical environment

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Issue** | **What** | **Who** | **When** | **Outcome** | **Review** |
| **Short term** | Management does not know if the school’s physical environment is accessible | Audit of physical environment | Building surveyors / Site Manager | Autumn 2022 | School is aware of accessibility barriers to its physical environment and will make a plan to address them | Summer 2023 |
| **Medium term** | Learning environment of pupils with visual impairments is not accessible | Incorporation of appropriate colour schemes | SBM | Autumn 2022 | Learning environment is accessible to pupils with visual impairments | Summer 2023 |
| Toilets are not accessible | Handrails installed | SBM | Autumn 2022 | Access to toilets is increased | Summer 2023 |
| **Long term** | Children with physical disabilities cannot access school buildings | Construction work undertaken | SBM/building contractors | Autumn 2022 | School buildings are fully accessible | Summer 2023 |

# Planning duty 3: Information

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Issue** | **What** | **Who** | **When** | **Outcome** | **Review** |
| **Short term** | Management staff do not know whether school information is accessible | Audit of information and delivery procedures | SENCO, SBM | Autumn 2022 | School is aware of accessibility gaps to its information delivery procedures | Summer 2023 |
| School does not know how to make written information accessible | Schools seeks advice from external advisors | SENCO | Autumn 2022 | School is aware of local services for converting written information into alternative formats | Summer 2023 |
| **Medium term** | Written information is not accessible to pupils with visual impairments | Provide written information in alternative formats  Incorporate appropriate colour schemes when refurbishing and install window blinds | SENCO, SBM | Autumn 2022 | Written information is fully accessible to children with visual impairments | Summer 2023 |
| **Long term** | School website is not accessible to children with SEND | Audit of website | SBM | Autumn 2022 | Website is fully accessible | Summer 2023 |

# 

# Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis by the governing board and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this plan isNovember 2024. Any changes to this plan will be communicated to all staff members and relevant stakeholders.