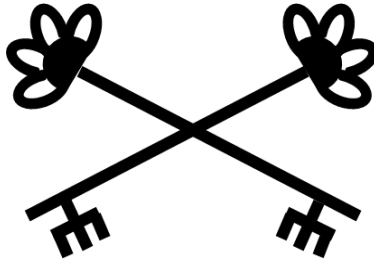


**BIRCH CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN  
2024-27**



WISDOM~TRUST~FRIENDSHIP

## **INTRODUCTION**

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in “Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils”, issued by DfES in July 2002.

Birch C of E school buildings are well designed to meet the needs of disabled pupils:

- All classrooms are on the ground floor.
- All public access rooms, including front and back entrances, library and hall are on the ground floor, with no steps;
- A disabled toilet was installed in 2009.

## **DEFINITION OF DISABILITY**

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

“A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities”.

## **KEY OBJECTIVE**

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to full participation in the school community for pupils, prospective pupils and our adult users with a disability.

## **PRINCIPLES**

1. Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school’s aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school’s SEND Information Report;
2. The school recognises its duty under the DDA:
  - Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
  - Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
  - To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
  - To publish an Accessibility Plan.
3. In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Disability Discrimination Codes of Practice (2002).

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4. The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.
5. The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, adapted and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2014 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum.
  - Setting suitable learning challenges.
  - Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
  - Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual and groups of pupils.

### **ACTIVITY**

Birch C of E Primary School has identified the following points for action, in order to achieve the key objective:

**Delivery of the Curriculum**

School staff receive advice and guidance in making the curriculum accessible to all pupils, and are aware of its importance.

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of the LEA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEND advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trust.

**Physical Environment**

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

In particular, following an accessibility and health and safety review:

- Non-slip paint on steps to the building.
- Continue to maintain wheelchair access at all points.
- Securing quiet areas in the building.
- Liaising with specialist teachers re. accessibility issues.
- Handles for steps by food tech area/Class 2.

The school is aware of local services, including those provided through the LEA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

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**Linked Policies**

This plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, e.g.

- School Improvement Plan
- SEND Information Report
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Employment Policy
- Curriculum Policies