



**NEWARK
ORCHARD
SCHOOL**

Together we thrive

**Newark Orchard School
Accessibility Plan**

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1.0 Purpose

1.1 This Accessibility Plan sets out how Newark Orchard School ensures equal access for all pupils, including those with disabilities and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It aims to prevent barriers that may limit participation or achievement due to shortcomings in the environment, curriculum, or information delivery.

1.2 For the purposes of this plan, disability is defined in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

1.3 The plan also considers the needs of disabled parents, carers, staff, governors, and visitors.

Objectives

- Increase the extent to which pupils with SEND or disabilities can participate fully in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment to ensure accessibility for pupils with a range of needs.
- Improve the delivery of information in alternative formats to pupils, parents, and carers.
- Ensure the school listens to pupils’ and parents’ preferences for communication.

1.4 This plan aligns with Newark Orchard School’s policies on Equality, SEND, Admissions, Teaching & Learning, and Health & Safety. Identified actions feed into the School Development Plan.

2.0 Responsibilities

2.1 The Local Governing Board ensures adequate resources are allocated to meet the accessibility needs of existing pupils, staff, and visitors.

2.2 The Board will also consider the potential needs of future pupils. Adjustments requiring significant expenditure will be planned and implemented based on emerging need.

2.3 The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring provision for pupils with disabilities or SEND, including liaising with the Local Authority and securing external specialist support where necessary.

2.4 The Headteacher will ensure accessibility considerations are embedded into procurement and project planning processes.

2.5 The Governing Board is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of this plan.

3.0 Principles of Accessibility Planning

- Newark Orchard School does not discriminate against pupils with disabilities or SEND in admissions, exclusions, or in access to education.
- The school will actively avoid placing pupils with disabilities at a substantial disadvantage.
- The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed on a three-year cycle and republished with updated actions.
- The Governing Board will monitor the plan's effectiveness.
- Confidentiality for pupils and families will always be respected.
- Parents and carers will be consulted when creating or reviewing individual support plans.
- All staff will receive appropriate training on supporting pupils with SEND or disabilities.
- Full risk assessments will be carried out to ensure safety and wellbeing.
- The school will utilise all appropriate Local Authority support services and specialist resources.

4.0 Increasing Participation in the Curriculum

- The school will ensure pupils with disabilities can access the full curriculum, including physical education, enrichment clubs, educational visits, and extracurricular activities.
- Classroom layout and teaching methods will be planned with accessibility in mind.
- Where appropriate, peer mentoring will be used to support disabled pupils.
- Support staff will be deployed effectively to provide targeted intervention and personalised support.

- Quality-first teaching and differentiation will be used to support progress.
- Specialist therapies (e.g., physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy) will be made available where required.

5.0 Improving the Physical Environment

5.1 The school will audit physical accessibility regularly, including:

- Entrances, exits, steps, stairways, and ramps
- Classroom access and circulation
- Sanitary facilities
- Lighting, acoustics, and ventilation
- Emergency routes
- Signage and wayfinding

5.2 Potential improvements may include:

- Ramps, lifts, widened doorways
- Handrails and accessibility-compliant toilets
- Adjustable lighting and blinds
- Induction loops
- Tactile signage and visual supports
- Redesigned acoustics for sensory and hearing needs

5.3 Physical aids that may be provided include:

- ICT adaptations (e.g., enlarged monitors, switches)
- Specialist desks and seating
- Sloping boards, grab rails, booster seats
- Alternative writing tools
- Mobility or motor-skill aids

6.0 Improving the Delivery of Information

Information provided to pupils and parents will be made available in accessible formats, including:

- Large print
- Simplified text
- Symbol-supported text
- Audio versions
- Digital/electronic formats
- Makaton signing support

- Oral explanations or visual aids

Information will be provided in reasonable time frames.

7.0 Access to Communication

Newark Orchard School acknowledges that pupils communicate in diverse ways.

Communication systems used may include:

- Objects of reference
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- Eye-gaze systems
- Communication books
- Symbol-supported language
- Makaton
- Speech and AAC devices

The school will work collaboratively with Speech and Language Therapy services and maintain a programme of staff training.

8.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governing Board will review progress in implementing this plan annually.

Evidence of impact may include:

- Increased satisfaction from pupils and families
- Increased participation in school life
- Improved staff confidence and training uptake
- Improvements identified through curriculum and environmental audits
- Enhanced availability of accessible information

The school also recognises its responsibilities toward disabled employees, ensuring:

- Equal opportunities in recruitment
- Reasonable adjustments
- Appropriate support and workplace adaptations

This plan will be developed and reviewed in consultation with:

- Pupils and their parents
- The Headteacher and senior leaders
- Staff teams
- External specialists

- The Governing Board

Approval and Review

This Accessibility Plan for Newark Orchard School will be reviewed every three years, or sooner following significant changes such as refurbishment, site expansion, or organisational change.

Approved by the Local Governing Board: _____

Date: _____