



Hull Collaborative Academy Trust

Accessibility Plan – **Dorchester Primary School** 2023-2026

Produced by:-

S. Mills

Date: 20th October 2023

CONTENTS

Background

1. Aims and Objectives
2. Statutory Responsibilities
3. Role of the Trustees
4. Health and Safety

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 HCAT is a diverse and inclusive family of schools that focuses on the well-being and success for all and where all members of our community are of equal worth. Our Accessibility Plan is based on a belief in equality and inclusiveness for all and confirms that everyone should have equal access to facilities and services regardless of disability, age, gender or race.

1.2 HCAT schools are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, emotional and cultural needs. Furthermore, we are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility, and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion

1.3 The key aims of this plan are to:

- Identify any accessibility issues
- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environments within our schools to increase disabled pupil's physical access to education and extra-curricular activities.
- Improve the delivery of information to disabled children and young people; using formats which give better access to information.
- Provide continued education as normally as the condition allows.
- Reduce the risk of lowering self-confidence and educational achievement.
- Promote equal access to education for all children.

1.4

2. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. The Accessibility Plan addresses the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice of September 2014. These acts place a responsibility on the Trustees to ensure that all trust schools are socially and academically inclusive and remove discrimination against pupils with disability. It requires schools to make 'reasonable adjustments' to their policies, procedures and practices to accommodate pupils with disability more fully in school life. There is a duty on schools to state what action they have taken to improve access and to have an Accessibility Plan.

2.2. The reasonable adjustments duty is triggered only where there is a need to avoid 'substantial disadvantage'. Substantial is defined as being anything more than minor or trivial. Whether or not a disabled pupil is at a substantial disadvantage or not will depend on the individual situation.

2.3. These duties apply to disabled pupils, as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The Act says that a pupil has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing.

2.4. The definition can include a wide range of impairments, including hidden impairments such as dyslexia, autism, speech and language impairments, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), or people diagnosed with cancer, HIV infection or multiple sclerosis. An impairment does not of itself mean that a pupil is disabled. It is the effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities that should be considered.

2.5. The test of whether an impairment affects normal day-to-day activity is whether it affects one or more of the following:

- Mobility
- Manual dexterity
- Physical co-ordination
- Continence
- Ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects
- Speech, hearing or eyesight
- Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand
- Perception of risk of physical danger

2.6. A child's ability to memorise, concentrate, learn, speak, move, make and maintain positive relationships, is central to their education. An impairment that has a long-term and substantial effect on a child's ability to do these things may amount to a disability.

2.7. Some disabled pupils also have special educational needs (SEN) and may be receiving support via school-based SEN provision or have a statement of SEN. Just because a disabled pupil has SEN or has a statement does not take away the duty to make reasonable adjustments for them. In practice, of course, many disabled pupils who also have a statement of SEN will receive all the support they need through the SEN framework and there will be nothing extra the school has to do. However, some disabled pupils will not have SEN, and some disabled pupils with SEN will still need reasonable adjustments to be made for them in addition to any support they receive through the SEN framework.

3.ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES

3.1 This Accessibility Plan sets out the proposals of the Trustees to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required under the Equality Act 2010. The three key duties are to:

- **To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum.**

- **To improve the physical environment of the school to ensure disabled stakeholders are able to take advantage of education and other benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school.**
- **To improve the delivery of information to disabled stakeholders, using formats which give better access to information.**

3.2. The responsibility for the Accessibility Plan lies with the Trustees and Headteacher.

3.3. It is a requirement that the school's Accessibility Plan is resourced, implemented, and reviewed and revised as necessary. The Action Plan sets out the school will address the priorities in the plan.

4.HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 The Equality Act 2010 does not override health and safety legislation. If making a particular adjustment would increase the risks to the health and safety of any person (including the disabled pupil in question) then this is a relevant factor in deciding whether it is reasonable to make that adjustment. However, as with the approach to any question of health and safety and risk assessment, schools are not required to eliminate all risk. Suitable and sufficient risk assessments should be used to help determine where risks are likely to arise and what action can be taken to minimise those risks. Risk assessments should be specific to the individual pupil and the activities in question. Proportionate risk management relevant to the disability should be an ongoing process throughout a disabled pupil's time at the school.

4.2. There might be instances when, although an adjustment could be made, it would not be reasonable to do so because it would endanger the health and safety either of the disabled pupil or of other people. There might be other instances where schools could make anticipatory reasonable adjustments in line with health and safety legislation, ensuring compliance with, and not infringing, that legislation.

APPENDIX A School Specific Information

DORCHESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL CONTEXT

The school is one level building with a range of additional extensions added on at later dates. There are predominantly wide corridors and several access points from outside. There is one hall with several entry points and is accessible to all. On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes three dedicated disabled parking bays. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and some have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby. There are three sets of disabled toilets including one in the entrance area for visitors. These are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

The school adapts classroom organisation, and movement around the school to meet individual needs whenever possible.

The school has a website that has a direct hyperlink to the HCAT website. Parents can access a comprehensive range of information about the school from the website, including performance data, curriculum information, newsletters and a calendar of events. There is also a direct link to the school's Twitter page that is regularly updated with school events and information. We also communicate key information with parents via Dojo. The majority of written communication is emailed to parents with hard copies kept in the office for those who do not access the internet.

The school entrance has an easily accessible document station with key policies, year group information and hard copies of newsletters.

CURRENT GOOD PRACTICE

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as and when a need occurs.

Physical Environment

The school is accessible for people using wheelchairs and frames. Corridors and routes are kept clear of obstacles. A Nurture room is available for pupils who need time out from the busy, stimulating classroom environments. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. There are some aspects of extra-curricular activities that present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/ interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with emotional or medical needs; but there are very few if any activities that pupils cannot be involved in with appropriate support and provision of staff.

Curriculum

- Visual prompts and resources including visual timetables are used to facilitate access for all pupils where these are seen to be helpful.
- Disability awareness is promoted in the curriculum, through assemblies and specific events.
- Staff working with pupils with disabilities receive specialist training.
- Thorough risk assessments are undertaken as required and take full account of the needs of disabled children.
- Disabled pupils are able to access a range of activities and clubs beyond the school day; they participate in residential visits.
- There are no areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, however by differentiation and staff support all can be accessed at a level commensurate with ability. Teachers work closely with the school's SENDCo to make adaptations to lessons so that all pupils can access the learning.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils to ensure their voice is heard especially during meetings where their needs are discussed, as well as for parents and staff. Where appropriate, disabled pupils receive support from specialist services.

APPENDIX B - ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT – Completed October 2023

HCAT Accessibility Audit for Schools

Please complete the following sections using the following key;

1. Yes, completely
2. Almost, working towards meeting the guidance
3. Partially
4. Not yet considered

A. Disability Awareness / Training

		1	2	3	4	Comments
1.	Do you provide disability awareness training so that all staff understand and recognise disability issues?		X			There have been a number of new staff over the last couple of years. The SENDCo is in the process of rolling out initial support/training.
2.	Do you ensure all staff have the necessary training to teach and support disabled pupils?	X				
3.	Do pupils receive training and education in disability equality issues?	X				Regular feature of assemblies/ PSHCE/ charity events

B. Getting to the building

		1	2	3	4	Comments
4.	Are car parking spaces reserved for disabled people near to the entrance?	X				There are 3 designated spaces.
5.	Are there any hand rails for easy movement around the site and to the main entrance?	N/A – the site is fully accessible without handrails				

6.	Are steps needed for access to the main entrance?	No- it is flat			
7.	If so, do the steps have a contrasting colour edging?	N/A			
8.	If there are steps, is a ramp provided to the main entrance?	N/A			
9.	Are there any other ramps accessing entrances?	Yes			
10.	Is there a continuous handrail on each ramp and stair flight and landing to the main entrance?				X
11.	Is it possible for a wheelchair user to get through the main door unaided?			X	Consideration will need to be given for an automatic door to be installed
12.	If no, is an alternative wheelchair accessible entrance provided?	N/A			

C. Internal building

		1	2	3	4	Comments
13.	Do all internal doors allow a wheelchair user to get through unaided?		X			
14.	Do all corridors have a clear unobstructed width of 1.2m?	X				
15.	Is there a wheelchair accessible toilet?	X				
16.	Is there an accessible changing room/ shower facilities?	X				
17.	Number of teaching spaces (classrooms)	14				
18.	Number of teaching spaces that are accessible	12 (although with an adult, all areas would be accessible – two areas have high door handles)				
19.	Number of internal social spaces	1				
20.	Number of internal social spaces that are accessible	1				
21.	Are internal pathways and routes logical and well designed?	Yes				
22.	Are non- visual guides used, to assist people to use buildings (eg tactile buttons)	No				
23.	Could any of the décor be confusing or disorientating for pupils with disabilities eg visual impairment, autism or epilepsy?	Not aware it is – wall backings are now in neutral colours.				
24.	Are appropriate quiet spaces (eg well- being rooms) available for those pupils that need it?	Yes				

D. Multi storey

		1	2	3	4	Comments
25.	How many storeys in the block? Place X in appropriate box a = single storey throughout b = single storey with some split level parts c = single storey with some 2/3 storey parts d= mainly 2 or 3 storey	A X	b	c	d	
26.	If the building is on more than one level, do the internal steps/ stairs have contrast colour edgings?					N/A
27.	Is there a continuous handrail on each internal stair flight and landing?					N/A
28.	Is there a lift that can be used by wheelchair users?	N/A				
29.	Do you have any other sort of mechanical means provided to move between floors? If yes, please state	N/A				
30.	Is it possible for a wheelchair user to use all the fire exits from areas to which they have access?	X				

E. Furniture and equipment

		1	2	3	4	Comments
42.	Is appropriate furniture and equipment provided to meet the needs of individual pupils?	X				
43.	Do furniture layouts allow easy movement for pupils with disabilities?	X				

F. Sensory Impairment

		1	2	3	4	Comments
31.	Are non-visual guides used to assist people to use the building?	No				
32.	Are hearing induction loops available?	No- individual devices provided				
33.	Do emergency alarm systems cater for those with hearing impairment?	High pitch, High volume				

G. How does your school deliver the curriculum?

		1	2	3	4	Comments
34.	Do staff seek to remove all barriers to learning and participation?	X				

35.	Do staff provide alternative ways of giving access to experiences for pupils with disabilities who can't engage in particular activities eg some forms of exercise in PE?	X				
36.	Do staff recognise and allow for the additional planning and effort necessary for pupils with disabilities to be fully included in the curriculum?	X				
37.	Do you provide access to appropriate technology for those with disabilities?	X				
38.	Are school visits made accessible to all children and young people irrespective of attainment or disability?	X				

H. How does your school deliver materials in other formats for anyone who needs it?

		1	2	3	4	Comments
39.	Do you have arrangements to provide information in simple language, symbols, large print, audio or in Braille for pupils who may have difficulty with standard forms of printed information?	X				
40.	Do you ensure that information is available to staff, pupils and parents in a way that is user friendly for all people with disabilities?	X				
41.	Do you ensure that all school staff are familiar with technology and practices developed to assist people with disabilities?	X				

APPENDIX C – Dorchester Primary School Accessibility Plan 2023-2026

Physical Environment				
Outcome	Strategies	Success criteria	Responsibility	Time Frame
The school buildings and grounds are accessible for all children and adults and continue to provide access to the school's physical environment for all	Audit of accessibility of school buildings and grounds to be completed annually. Suggested actions to be implemented.	Access to all areas will continue to be good	Head Teacher SENDco Governors	ongoing

All disabled pupils can be safely evacuated	Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to disabled pupils. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) for all pupils with difficulties	All disabled pupils and staff working alongside are safe in the event of an evacuation	Head Teacher SENDco	As required
All disabled persons are able to access the school unaided	Replace the front door to the office area with an automatic door, with 'push-to-open' panels.	Door replaced	Head Teacher Finance Manager Site Manager	By Sep 2025
Curriculum				
Outcome	Strategies	Success Criteria	Responsibility	Time Frame
Staff are trained to meet the needs of children with a range of SEND	SENDco review needs of children and provide training for staff as needed	Staff are able to enable all children to access curriculum	Head Teacher SENDco	Review termly
As far as practicable, all educational visits are accessible to all	All providers of out of school education will comply with legislation to ensure that the needs of all children are met. Ensure each new venue is vetted for appropriateness	All pupils in school able to access all educational visits and take part in a range of activities A real commitment to inclusion of all children in all activities and events Increase in the number of SEND pupils accessing competitions	Teachers/Trip or activity organiser SENDco	Review termly

Specialist equipment is provided where needed to promote participation in learning	All children will be able to work as independently as possible	Following advice from outside agencies provide equipment as needed e.g. pencil grips, overlays, writing slopes, ear defenders etc	Teacher SENDco	Review as required
The needs of all individuals during statutory tests are met	Barriers to success will be reduced as far as possible enabling children to succeed with testing	Children will be assessed in accordance with regular classroom practice and guidance from the DFE for additional time and access arrangements	Head Teacher Teachers SENDco	Review annually
ICT software is used to support learning	Make sure software installed where needed Liaise with outside agencies	Wider use of SEN resources in classrooms	Computing Lead SENDco	As required
PE curriculum is accessible to all	Gather information on accessible PE and disability sports Seek inclusive events and visitors	All pupils are able to access PE and are able to excel	PE subject leader	As required
Written/other information				
Outcome	Strategies	Success Criteria	Responsibility	Time Frame
Parents and other members of the school community can access necessary information	Written information will be provided in alternative formats as necessary. Continue to improve organisation of	Parents with particular needs will have the same access to information as any other parent	Administration staff teachers	As required

	information on the school website Continue to develop the use of social media, Marvellous Me and parentmail			
Parents who are unable to attend school because of a disability can access parents evenings	Staff to hold parents' evenings by phone, email or send home written information	Parents with particular needs will be informed of their children's progress	Headteacher teachers	Review termly
All staff are aware of guidance on accessible formats	Guidance to staff on accessible information ie. Dyslexia and visual impairment	Staff to use accessible information	SENDco	Review as required
Annual review information is as accessible as possible	Develop parent and child friendly review formats	Staff more aware of pupils/parents preferred method of communications	SENDco	ongoing
Parents who speak English as an additional language able to access written information.	Written communication from the school to be translated for EAL parents.	All parents feel well-informed	Head Teacher Class Teachers Office Manager	Ongoing