

Accessibility Plan

1. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

2. Monmouth Comprehensive School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will focus on the physical environment as access to the curriculum is covered in other policies (see Additional Needs and Curriculum). Overall, accessibility will include:

- Improving access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- Increasing access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the pupils without a disability; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of the DDA). This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

3. Accessibility plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.

4. We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

5. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Strategic Equality Scheme
- Health & Safety

- Additional Needs
- Building Positive Learning Relationships
- School Improvement Plan
- School Prospectus
- School Improvement Plan and Team Development Plans
- Supporting the Learning of all Students

6. The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly by the Local Authority. It will not be feasible to undertake all the works during the life of the Accessibility Plan and therefore items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit is revisited prior to the end of each three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.

7. The School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.

8. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents.

9. The Plan will be monitored through the Students and Learning Committee and the Premises Committees of the Governors.

10. The school will work in partnership with the local education authority in developing and implementing this plan.

11. The Plan will be monitored by Estyn as part of their inspection cycle.

Monmouth Comprehensive School Accessibility Plan 2012-2015 Improving the Physical Access at School (reviewed 2012)

Existing facilities to assist access to the school by pupils with disabilities:

- lift in Phoenix Block (block completed in 2002)
- disabled toilet facilities
- ramped access to most buildings
- provision of appropriate number of disabled parking bays
- yellow edging to internal stairs to aid students with visual impairment
- sinks at appropriate height for wheelchair access in laboratory in new demountable building
- ramped access at front of school (September 2013)
- signs throughout site that direct disabled users We continually look to improve facilities for disabled people, to provide improved access.

Substantial improvement in the physical access to buildings would require significant capital investment. A new building or new school would be designed to be inclusive of the needs of disabled pupils, and community users. Further improvement will be made by considering appropriate décor and other improvements as required in response to a disabled user and as part of planned and prioritised strategic improvement and development.

IMPROVING THE CURRICULUM ACCESS

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Support staff in meeting the needs of all learners	<i>Provide on-going information, coaching, professional development and support to staff</i>	All teachers are able to move more fully to meet the requirements of disabled children's needs and of children with additional educational needs with regard to accessing the curriculum	On-going	Increase in access to the curriculum
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	<i>Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation</i>	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements.	On-going	Increase in access to all school activities for disabled pupils

IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF WRITTEN INFORMATION

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Make available written material in alternative formats, if required	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LEA for converting written information into alternative formats	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	As required	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats, if required	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it.	All school information available for all	As required	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved
Review documentation as required with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Get advice on alternative formats, as required, and use of IT software to produce customized materials	All school information available for all	As required	Delivery of school information to pupils and parents with visual difficulties improved