

## Accessibility Strategy

There is a requirement under the Equality Act 2010 for schools to have an accessibility strategy. It states that the strategy should: -

- (a) increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the schools' curriculums;
- (b) improve the physical environment of the schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the schools;
- (c) improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

The definition of disabled can be found in the Equality Act 2010.

This Accessibility Plan covers the period from November 2019 to November 2022.

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. Rainford Brook Lodge Primary School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
  - Improve 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.
  - Increase 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 able-bodied pupils; (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. Attached is the Action Plan, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These 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 Action Plan for physical accessibility relates closely to the Health and Safety Checklist of the School, undertaken regularly by the School. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each first three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.
7. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
8. The Plan will be monitored through the Site Committee of the Governing Body.
9. The plan will be distributed to Parents via the School Website: ([www.rainfordbrooklodge.st-helens.sch.uk](http://www.rainfordbrooklodge.st-helens.sch.uk)).
10. The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection regime.

## Accessibility Plan November 2019 - November 2022

Rainford Brook Lodge Primary School

IMPROVING CURRICULUM ACCESS				
Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases (consult VI team for child with VI)	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils	Ongoing and reviewed half termly	Full access to the National Curriculum
Improved access for all children but particularly less able to improve safe travel around school	Sort existing resources and declutter. Sort shelves and store rooms to optimise their use. Purchase any required storage furniture to help with this	All areas around school comply with Health and Safety regulations and trip hazards are avoided.	Ongoing	Access improved for all but particularly for those with mobility issues
All relevant staff trained to deliver curriculum to visually impaired	Visual Impairment team to undertake training with relevant staff	Staff able and confident to deliver curriculum content which can be accessed by visually impaired	Completed on an annual basis as child with VI moves through school and if technology that they use changes	Curriculum accessible to visually impaired with suitable amendments made e.g. braille for reading etc
Transfer braille to English (and vice versa) quickly to enable delivery of the curriculum.	Use updated Braille Note to allow typed braille to be printed both in braille and English and for the teacher to be able to type in English and be printed in braille	Less time needed by staff in translating to English leaving more time for planning, teaching and assessment of the actual writing Print to braille	Awaiting delivery of updated note	Children with VI have more efficient access to staff feedback and teacher has the ability to braille resources if necessary as well as VI team

IMPROVING PHYSICAL ACCESS				
To improve access for visually impaired	Regular upkeep of areas already highlighted in a contrasting paint  Changes to existing landscaping on playground to be risk assessed and modifications made where necessary  Work with Mersey Forest and VI team	Safer access for visually impaired on the playground and around exterior of the site.	Summer 20	Playground provides safe environment for the visually impaired
Train pupils who regularly play/support VI to guide properly	Mobility officer to train pupils	More independence on the playground for children with VI	Ongoing	More independence for child with VI
Ensure paths around school are accessible to wheelchair and visually impaired using a cane	General maintenance of paths around school	Improved access and increased safety for visually impaired and wheelchair access	Ongoing – use of leaf blower in Autumn	Improved access and safety for children and adults when accessing the junior playground
Ensure that classrooms are safe for children with visual impairment	Risk assessment to be carried out by VI team and necessary adjustments made	Visually impaired to access the classroom safely	Summer 20 ready for September start – reviewed annually when child moves to new classroom	All children to learn in a safe environment
IMPROVING COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION				
Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA for converting written information into alternative formats where necessary	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	As and when required	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved
Improve the flexibility and efficiency of communication	Continue to use ParentApps to enable instant messaging	Parents and (due to the nature of the App) wider	Renew annually	Delivery of information to wider community and

to parents (and wider community) and ease of use of mobile/tablet to access both the app and website	as well as the ability for parents to inform school of absence/medical appointments and consents	family members to have greater awareness of school news/events etc		possibility for parents unable to access school to message re consents and/or absences
All parents able to pay fees online with no need to access school building	Look into possibility of using online finance system	All parents, regardless of disability or issues with access can pay for things at school online	April 20 (or following year if ParentApp not ready)	possibility for parents unable to access school to pay for school trips/dinners etc online