

'Individual Growth, Individual People'

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School Accessibility Plan

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SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that "schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation". According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The School Improvement Plan addresses priorities identified and timings for actions are set.

INTRODUCTION

Newark Orchard School makes provision for pupils who need a teaching and learning environment that is different from mainstream schooling in order for them to progress towards a fulfilling lifestyle that is as independent as possible.

Newark Orchard School consists of one two storey building catering for the needs of pupils between the ages of 3 - 18 years. The school specialises in addressing the needs of pupils with profound and multiple learning needs, severe learning needs, moderate learning needs, autism and social, emotional and mental health needs. Newark Orchard School has a very good reputation for behaviour management and being innovative in its vision.

Newark Orchard School is a source of support and encouragement for parents and carers. The school encourages partnership in learning and the communication between pupil, parent and school is seen as paramount in the success of a child's achievements. We also believe in progressing successful partnerships with any agency actively involved with a child.

Newark Orchard School encourages and supports continual and on-going professional development for all staff engaged in the teaching and learning of the pupils who attend the school. Staff are given opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in special educational needs and disabilities.

Newark Orchard School originally opened in April 1996 - it has just had a new build which was completed September 2020. It has an ethos of evolving by adopting best practices in special education and by pioneering new approaches and methods. The work is never seen as completed. Newark Orchard School over the years has striven to effect change in the curriculum, environment and organisation and constantly analyses the changes made in order to best meet the needs of the pupils it serves.

OUR COMMITMENT

Our mission statement is 'Individual Growth - Individual People'. We are committed to the principle that all students have the right to the widest range of learning opportunities possible.

We will recognise and develop each individual's potential to the full and value and celebrate the contribution that they make to everyday life and society. We will strive for excellence in all we do.

OUR AIMS

- To work continually towards providing all students at Newark Orchard with the highest quality and standard of education possible.
- To work closely with parents/carers and maintain an open dialogue to ensure that parents/carers are fully involved with all aspects relating their child's education;
- To realise the full potential of each student in academic, social, moral, spiritual and personal development.
- All outcomes from the School Improvement Plan address the identified needs of every child in the school.
- The curriculum we follow is accessible to all.
- The environment is conducive to learning and appropriate resources are made available.
- Every person will be encouraged to develop, make progress and will be afforded equality of opportunity.
- We will work in partnership with governors, parents and carers, local schools and all agencies that support students with special educational needs.

We have set the following priorities regarding accessibility, in the light of official guidance and after consultation with a wide range of stakeholders:

1. Increasing the extent to which pupils at Newark Orchard School can access the curriculum and attain nationally accredited awards.
2. Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils can take advantage of learning and socialising opportunities.
3. Improving the delivery to pupils of information that is provided in both spoken and written form.

The school recognises that teaching approaches must reflect the learning styles of individual students.

The school believes that pupils are most likely to realise their potential when they experience a personalised educational programme that targets key priorities for them as individuals. We believe that personalised education in a special school involves organising the curriculum so as to enable each age group of pupils to have full access to a range of opportunities at a level appropriate to them.

The school believes in differentiating learning objectives and outcomes, teaching strategies and approaches within every lesson to maximise involvement and learning for each pupil.

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils can take advantage of learning opportunities. A section on 'Improving the building' is in the school improvement plan we are continually monitoring and reviewing how to ensure the best environment possible.