



New Forest Small School

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Member of Staff Responsible	Headteacher
Regularity of Review	2 yearly

New Forest Small School believes it is wrong to discriminate against disabled pupils or prospective pupils. It will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled pupils and disabled prospective pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with those who are not disabled. It will work to improve staff understanding of the requirements of disabled pupils. It will develop and operate an accessibility plan. New Forest Small School is located on ½ an acre with one main building, one studio and one external storage & laboratory cleaning area. The main building has 2 floors and no lift. There are disabled ramps into all external doors. A pupil with impaired mobility will not be able to access the 3 upstairs classrooms and music room. We can accommodate pupils with impaired mobility by moving classes downstairs where needed and where the disabled toilet is located.

Admissions

New Forest Small School does not select its pupils for admission on the grounds of ability. As detailed in the school's admissions' policy, we admit a pupil based on the need and relevance of a New Forest Small School education for a particular child, a 'taster day' (or days), previous school reports and a reference from the previous school. Formal entry tests are not a requirement for entry.

To ease the burden of the external examinations, the School would liaise closely with the parent/guardian or student on the mechanics of the exams to be taken. Liaison may take the form of a meeting or by telephone conversation to discuss any special arrangements. The school would apply to the JCQ for permission to supply the provision of the following aids to the prospective disabled pupil:

- Large print exam papers
- Extra time to complete the exam paper
- Accessibility to the exam room for impaired mobility pupils
- Laptop computers
- Readers/Screen Reader software
- Scribes/Voice to text software
- Coloured papers
- Rest breaks

It will not normally be possible to provide an exam room with a hearing loop nor provide a secretary or teacher from within school resources knowledgeable in sign language to assist and oversee the exam.

Curriculum

It is recognised that the curriculum should be accessible for those with disabilities. Pupils who have educational Statements, EHC Plans or who have been diagnosed with a learning disability will be helped according to their needs (see the SEN Policy and SEND Report). Pupils who are entitled to extra time in exams will be given this in all internal as well as external exams and laptops for exams (for example) will be allowed and provided if recommended.

1. Buildings and Accessibility

It is the policy of the Head Teachers to improve access to buildings and facilities over a period of time, as finances permit.

2. Vehicular Access

Disabled parking has been provided outside the main building. Access to the school may be gained through the front door with vehicular access available right up to the porch.

3. Paths

Wheelchairs have access via paths to most areas of the school, but specific parts of buildings remain inaccessible. Ramps have been constructed to make access possible, but routes may be circuitous.

4. Buildings

New Forest Small School's buildings were erected before consideration was given to disabled access. This is why there is no internal lift or plans to put one in.

5. Lavatories for the Disabled

Lavatory for the disabled is located on the ground floor.

6. Education

Wherever possible, lessons could be moved to ground floor classrooms where access (for example) by wheelchair is possible. Each case would be judged on the circumstances pertaining at the time.

7. Special Educational Needs

All information relating to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) can be accessed via the SEN Policy and SEND report.

8. Medical

The school has first aid trained staff. Signed parental consent is required to administer prescribed medicines for medical disabilities such as asthma and diabetes. The school currently has no serious nut allergies so currently nuts and nut products are allowed in packed lunches. Some pupils have wheat and dairy allergies and staff are aware as are pupils in the relevant classes.

Many classrooms have digital projectors that ease the viewing of subject matter. These will be helpful to those with a sight impediment. Larger print course notes and examination papers will be introduced as and when appropriate. The school also uses 'Join Me' for pupils with severe visual impairment to access via their personal iPads.

The provision of hearing loops has been considered, but with small size of classrooms, it is not deemed necessary for the School to install such provision at the current time.

9. Welfare

All staff are informed of any pupils with disabilities and of the need to be aware of potential difficulties such as:

- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy)
- Non-integration into classes

The centre of the pastoral system is the pastoral lead

10. Activities and Trips

The School encourages all pupils to attend a variety of trips and activities. These may be sporting, cultural or adventurous. At such venues the programme of activities can be modified to facilitate participation regardless of disability. Staffing ratios can be adjusted to provide extra help when necessary.

Occasionally it may be considered that the welfare of the pupil with a particular disability cannot be guaranteed due to the nature of the disability and the specific environment and the terrain. In such circumstances it may not be possible to provide a suitable level of supervision and care to enable the pupil to participate in the activity safely.