



## **New Horizon Academy: Accessibility Plan (2024-2027)**

## **Introduction**

At New Horizon Academy we educate with purpose: to provide our pupils with the tools they need to become independent, achieve economic well-being, contribute to society, and always strive to do their best.

We provide a vibrant environment for the education of children with moderate and severe learning needs who are in the care of New Horizons Care Limited. We will be responsive enough in our teaching approach to consistently meet our pupils needs and prepare them for the ever-changing world.

## **Purpose of Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to show how New Horizon Academy intends, over time, to increase accessibility to the physical environment, the curriculum and written information so that all pupils including those with a disability can take full advantage of their education and associated opportunities.

We believe that every child should have access to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. This should take account of their individual strengths and needs and should allow each child to fulfil their potential.

## **Definition of disability**

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

## **Key Aims**

- To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- To improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- To improve the availability of accessible written information.

## Principles

1. The New Horizon Academy Accessibility Plan is for the 3 - year period 2024 – 2026 and will be reviewed annually.
2. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives and will be published on the school's website. We understand that the LA will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 and will advise upon compliance with that duty.
3. We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access and values all pupils, staff, parents or carers and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
4. The New Horizon Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access can be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given time frame and how we anticipate needs to make **reasonable** adjustments to accommodate these needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant and timely actions to:
  - a. Increase disabled pupils' access to the curriculum
  - b. Improve the accessibility of the school's physical environment
  - c. Improve the accessibility of written information

### Increasing disabled pupils' access to the curriculum

This includes 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 provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe.

### Improving the accessibility of the school's physical environment

This includes adding specialist facilities as necessary. It also covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe; we will consider our ability to provide this prior to admission.

### **Improving the accessibility of written information**

This includes improving the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents or carers and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

### **Financial Planning and control**

The headteacher, SLT and the finance manager will review the financial implications of the accessibility plan as part of the normal budget review process. This will determine what adjustments are reasonable and when they will be scheduled over the 3-year period.

## Accessibility Action Plan

### Access to the physical environment - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Responsible person	Short, Medium or Long term? Deadline?	Progress Review in: June and December 2024 June and December 2025 June and December 2026
The school is aware of the access needs of disabled pupils, staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors	<p>Create access plans for individual disabled pupils as part of the IEP process when required.</p> <p>Ask staff, governors and parents or carers about their disability status during recruitment and induction.</p>	Headteacher	On-going during pupil referral and induction; also, during recruitment & induction of staff	<b>June 2024 – We currently have no physically disabled pupils -</b>
Layout of school to allow access for all pupils, parents or carers and visitors who are disabled	<p>Ensure that there is an accessible entrance to the school premises for those who are disabled.</p> <p>Ensure there is a functioning disabled toilet on the school premises.</p> <p>Ensure that disabled pupils can take classes, eat, and access the library on the ground floor</p>	Proprietor	April 2024	<p><b>June 2024 – this is now in place alongside a functioning disabled toilet,</b></p> <p><b>Plan can be made for students to complete all lessons downstairs on lower flower if required.</b></p> <p><b>The dining area is downstairs, alongside access to classroom and play area</b></p>

<p>Ensure all disabled pupils can be safely evacuated</p>	<p>Secure training to ensure all staff know how to evacuate all pupils from the building, particularly disabled pupils</p> <p>Compile Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans for pupils with impaired mobility and ensure that they and staff are aware of these procedures.</p>	<p>Headteacher</p> <p>Headteacher</p>	<p>On-going at the point of admission</p>	<p><b>All staff are aware of the fire evacuation process</b></p> <p><b>None of our current pupils require PEEPS,</b></p>
<p>Ensure hearing and visual environment in classrooms is regularly monitored to support hearing impaired and visually impaired children.</p>	<p>Inspect school premises regularly during and outside school hours against paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations (2014)</p>	<p>Headteacher – regulated responsibility to the Health &amp; Safety Officer</p>	<p>Ongoing: at least once every term</p>	<p><b>We currently do not have visually or hearing-impaired students.</b></p>

Access to the curriculum - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Responsible person	Short, Medium or Long term? Deadline?	Progress Review in: June and December 2024 June and December 2025 June and December 2026
Increase confidence of all staff in differentiating the curriculum	<p>Deliver CPD for supporting pupils with the needs that the school is registered to accept and other related needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>moderate learning difficulties</b></li> <li>• speech, language and communication needs</li> <li>• mobility and coordination</li> <li>• sensory needs</li> </ul> <p>Find out about staff training needs on curriculum access through lesson observation and supervision and organise CPD as required.</p>	Headteacher	On-going, during induction of all staff members and during INSET days and Twilight sessions when additional training	<p><b>Our cohort of students is now more focused on mild to moderate learning difficulties.</b></p> <p><b>Trauma Training Completed</b></p>

Improved access through the use of ICT and other auxiliary aids	<p>Secure 1 computer/laptop for each classroom</p> <p>Secure laptops for each pupil</p> <p>Make sure specialist software is installed where needed for example screen readers, screen magnification software.</p> <p>Buy additional items such as large print and tactile keyboards as needed.</p>	Proprietor		<p><b>Laptops and Computers all on place.</b></p> <p><b>Appropriate Software Installed which allows students to access relevant to learning</b></p> <p><b>Not required at this time – and will be reviewed on each admission.</b></p>
Improved access to examinations	Organise examination access arrangements such as supervised rest breaks, scribes, readers, as needed.	Centre Coordinator	On-going – as needed within JCQ timeframes	<b>This would be applied for as appropriate for each student – when taking exams</b>
All educational visits to be accessible to all	<p>Develop guidance for staff on making trips accessible.</p> <p>Ensure each new venue is vetted for accessibility.</p> <p>Use transport that is wheelchair accessible as needed.</p> <p>Complete detailed risk assessments for each educational visit.</p>	Health & Safety Coordinator	<p>As needed.</p> <p>As needed.</p> <p>Before every visit</p>	<p><b>Venue of PE has been vetted and wheelchair is available if required.</b></p> <p><b>Checked on each visit</b></p> <p><b>All completed and in place.</b></p>



## Access to information advice and guidance - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Responsible Person	Short, Medium or Long term? Deadline?	Progress Review in: June and December 2024 June and December 2025 June and December 2026
Review information to parents or carers/carers to ensure it is accessible.	If required provide information and letters in large print.	Headteacher	During induction and on-going	<b>Reviewed June 2024 – No Actions Required</b>
Improve the delivery of information in writing in an appropriate format	Research sources of alternative formats including costings.  Use alternative formats as required.	Office administrator	As required	<b>Reviewed June 2024 – No Actions Required</b>
Ensure all staff are aware of guidance on accessible formats	Guidance to staff accessible information	Headteacher	On-going	<b>Reviewed June 2024 – No Actions Required</b>
Provide information in other languages for pupils or prospective pupils	Access to translators, sign language interpreters to be considered and offered if possible	Headteacher	As required	Not required at this time – Reviewed June 2024