WIRRAL HOSPITALS' SCHOOL

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

March 2023

Phill Arrowsmith

Adopted Feb 17 Ref R99.17
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Adopted March 23 Ref 12.22

Next review due: Spring 2026

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

1. This accessibility plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Local Authority, pupils, their families, staff and governors of the school.

2. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all our pupils, their families, staff, and those associated with the school regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, emotional, social and spiritual need. In keeping with the school's distinctive mission, we acknowledge that needs may not be obvious or may go unstated and so we commit to raising awareness and to treat all people with sensitivity and care. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes and to the promotion of a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

3. Wirral Hospitals' School is spread over two sites – Joseph Paxton Campus and Arrowe Park Hospital, Children's Ward. The Children's Ward is a Health Authority site and so physical access to the sites has to be covered by their own appropriate access plan. Any pupil being taught at home or at a venue other than Joseph Paxton Campus or Arrowe Park Hospital will have their needs assessed on an individual basis. Physical access to Joseph Paxton Campus is covered by this accessibility plan; access to written information and to the curriculum applies to all areas of the school.

4. Wirral Hospitals' School is continually evaluating and developing strategies which remove barriers to learning. These strategies will contain actions relevant to :

   - Improving access to the physical environment of the school.
   - Increasing access to the curriculum for all pupils, ensuring that all have equal preparation for life. This

covers teaching and learning as well as any extra-curricular activities.

- Improving the delivery of written and visual information to pupils, their families, staff, visitors and associates of the school.

5. Recent developments regarding improving the school's accessibility for all include:
   - Installing a fob opener and bell to rear entrance.
   - Continued development of our site as an ASC- and ADHD-friendly building, in line with guidance from external professionals and student and parent feedback.

6. Planned future developments include:
   - Changes to the entrance and exit of the site, in order to improve the access of the main entrance from the car park.
   - Changes to the exit at the front entrance to increase health and safety security.

7. We acknowledge the need for continued awareness raising and relevant training for all staff and governors in matters relating to disability and accessibility.

8. The Accessibility plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:

   - Special Educational Needs policy
   - Anti-bullying policy
   - Behaviour policy
   - Racial discrimination policy
   - Whole school curriculum policy
   - Admission policy and procedures
   - Access to Education policy
   - School prospectus
   - School Mission Statement
   - School Improvement Plan

9. The action plan for physical accessibility relates to the access audit of the school, which is undertaken regularly by the Local Authority. It may be the case that some items will have to roll forward into future planning, but all identified actions will become part of the School Development Plan. The audit will be revisited prior to the updating of the accessibility plan.

10. As school policies are reviewed sections relating to access, equality and diversity will be added. The terms of reference for all governors committees will contain an item on "having regard to matters relating to access".

11. The school complaints procedure covers accessibility and equality.

12. The accessibility plan will be monitored through the work of the Governing body.

13. The school will work in partnership with the Children and Young People's Department in developing and implementing the accessibility practice of the school.