

SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN November 2016

The Chelsea Group of Children is a special needs school for pupils aged 4 to 11, with mild to moderate, sometimes complex, needs. All pupils have learning difficulties covering a wide range including mild physical challenges, sensory impairments, emotional, social, communication and behaviour difficulties and autistic spectrum disorder. All members of staff maintain high expectations for all pupils while seeking to remove barriers to learning and participation.

Access to the Curricula

We provide a differentiated National Curriculum. We ensure all pupils can access activities on the timetables and make adaptations to equipment and activities to fulfil this aim. Curriculum lessons are highly differentiated and take account of individual learning difficulties and learning styles. Priority is placed on independent pupil participation, whenever possible and practical.

Teachers are clear about the learning objectives of the lesson. Good communication is supported by the use of signing, symbols/pictures and low and high tech communication aids (Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices) overseen by our three full time Speech and Language Therapists. Three full time occupational therapists work alongside staff to ensure we meet the physical needs of our pupils.

All teaching is informed by the therapy provision maps, which are created by the therapy team of speech and language and occupational therapists. These are written for every child, which enables the teaching staff to plan and teach to each child taking into account strategies needed for his or her curriculum access.

We use adapted curriculum materials and sensory approaches for children with sensory impairments. All pupils are encouraged to take part in music, drama and physical activities including educational visits and outings.

We encourage independence in our pupils and strive to ensure they experience full and rewarding lives. The school will continue to strive to enable pupils to reach their full potential

Access to the School Environment

The Chelsea Group of Children took possession of The Parish Hall, an old church hall, in 2011. We have continually refurbished, and redesigned the space to make the environment safer, more efficient and more accessible for purpose. The school is fully accessible for all pupils enrolled in the school.

The school has six therapy rooms. The outdoor environment is also fully accessible with a newly improved (summer 2015) designated outdoor learning space. The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved toilets, lighting, acoustic treatment, and more accessible facilities and fittings, particularly in the toilets.

Access to Information

All information issued by the school aims to be user friendly.. Makaton signing and symbols (Communication in Print) are used throughout the school to support the pupils' communication, reading and understanding. Signing workshops are offered to parents. We communicate with parent through *Homelink* which is an electronic communication toll developed by The Chelsea Group of Children.

Staff

All staff have access to all documents related to planning and assessment for every child through a cloud-based, secure, document storage facility. Policies and procedures and all other documents driving and informing the educational practice are also available in that same facility. Information to staff is sent via email and daily morning staff meetings.

The school provides computers on which all staff can use to create necessary documents and also access the cloud-based file sharing facility (which is not accessible on staff's own devices).

Students

All students receive lessons in information technology and have access to several kinds of modified devices and/or equipment. The majority of our computers are touch screen with modified keyboards and mice to meet student. In the last year we have purchased iPads for every classroom and by January 2016 there will be one for each child (6) for exclusive use in IT lessons. We utilise a wide range of APPs

Parents

We firmly believe the partnership of parents, teachers, and therapists best serves the academic, emotional, and developmental progress of each student at Chelsea Group. We endeavour to inform and include parents in the program of education and care for their child. We do this through a broad range of parent questionnaires, parent meetings, evening presentations, training workshops, weekly emails, *Homelink*, Coffee Mornings, comprehensive IEPs and Reports. Parents have all necessary contact details including the mobile telephone numbers of the head teacher and the director to provide easy and immediate access to senior leadership.

Our plan for improvements over the next three years are to...

- Install new student and disabled toilets in the front of the building adding a shower to the disabled toilet.
- Refurbish the staff toilet in the school office
- Complete the second stage of garden improvements
- Create a new entrance along the east side of building also creating a coat and shoe/boot storage for students and staff
- Redecorate staff room creating additional and more comfortable seating
- Update technology whenever possible to provide a comprehensive access to information
- Continue to provide staff training to enable staff to cater to the changing needs and profiles of the students
- Improve and increase the inventory of resources to make the building and the curricula more accessible.