



Agreed by Governors on 6th March 2024

Statement of intent

Merridale Primary School is committed to taking all steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage and therefore works closely with pupils with disabilities, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove any potential barriers to their learning experience. The school is active in promoting an inclusive positive environment by ensuring that every pupil is given equal opportunity to develop socially, to learn, and to enjoy school life. The school continually looks for ways to improve accessibility within the school through data collection, parent's/carers questionnaires and discussions.

This policy will be implemented at all times and adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents/carers and visitors.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011
- Disability Discrimination (England) Regulations 2005

1.2.This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- ‘The Equality Act 2010 and schools’, DFE (2014)

1.3.This policy will be used in conjunction with the following school policies and procedures:

- Equality Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Medicines in School Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Curriculum Statement
- Health and Safety Policy

2. Definition

2.1.A person is defined as having a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

2.2.The effect of the Equality Act 2010 means that schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1.Staff members will act in accordance with the school’s Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan at all times.

3.2.The School will create an Accessibility Plan with the intention of improving the school’s accessibility.

3.3.The Governing Body will be responsible for monitoring the Accessibility Plan.

3.4.All staff members are responsible for ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil, parent/carer or colleague.

3.5.The SENCO will ensure that staff members are aware of individual pupils’ disabilities or medical conditions where necessary.

3.6.During a new pupil’s induction, the SENCO will establish whether the pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.

3.7.The SENCO is responsible for consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

3.8.The school will work closely with the LA, where appropriate, and external agencies to effectively create and implement the school's Accessibility Plan.

3.9.The special educational needs and disabilities coordinator (SENCO) will work closely with the teaching and support staff to ensure that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are appropriately supported.

3.10.All staff members will have training on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

3.11.Designated staff members will be trained to effectively support pupils with medical conditions, such as understanding how to administer insulin.

4. Accessibility Plan

4.1. The Accessibility Plan will be structured to complement and support the Equality Policy and Equality Context and Objectives, as well as the Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.

5. Equal opportunities

5.1. Merridale Primary School strives to ensure that all existing and potential pupils are given the same opportunities.

5.2. Merridale Primary School is committed to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness.

5.3. Staff members will be aware of any pupils who are at a substantial disadvantage and will take the appropriate steps to ensure the pupil is effectively supported.

5.4. Wherever possible, teaching staff will adapt their lesson plans and the curriculum in order to allow all pupils to reach their full potential and receive the support they need.

5.5. Merridale Primary School will ensure that all extra-curricular activities are accessible to all pupils. The school will make all reasonable adjustments to allow pupils with SEND to participate in all school activities.

6. Admissions

6.1. Merridale Primary School will act in accordance with the Admissions Policy as determined by Wolverhampton City Council.

6.2. The school will apply the same entry criteria to all pupils and potential pupils.

- 6.3. In the event of examinations, the school will support those with SEND by making any reasonable adjustments necessary, e.g. publishing exam papers in a larger font.
- 6.4. Merridale Primary School will strive to not put any pupil at a substantial disadvantage by making reasonable adjustments prior to the pupil starting at the school.
- 6.5. All pupils, including those with SEND, will have appropriate access to all of the opportunities available to any member of the school community.
- 6.6. Information will be obtained on future pupils in order to facilitate advanced planning.
- 6.7. Prospective parents/carers of pupils with EHCPs and pupils with SEND, are invited to a transition meeting prior to the pupil starting the school in order to discuss the pupil's specific needs.

7. Curriculum

- 7.1. Merridale Primary School is committed to providing a healthy environment that enables full curriculum access, which values and includes all pupils regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual and emotional needs.
- 7.2. No pupil is excluded from any aspect of the school curriculum due to their disabilities or impairments.
- 7.3. Merridale Primary School aims to provide a differentiated curriculum to enable all pupils to feel secure and make progress.
- 7.4. Class teachers, subject leaders for each curriculum area and the SENCO will work together to adapt a pupil's Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), with advice sought from outside agencies where appropriate, to allow all pupils to reach their full potential.
- 7.5. Physical education lessons will be adapted, wherever possible, to allow pupils with disabilities to participate in lessons.
- 7.6. Where areas of the curriculum present particular challenges for a pupil, these are dealt with on an individual basis.
- 7.7. The class teacher, in discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers, will ensure that all adjustments possible, in line with common sense and practical application, will be made for any particular disability or impairment.
- 7.8. There are established procedures for the identification and support of pupils with SEND in place at the school.
- 7.9. Detailed pupil information on pupils with SEND are given to relevant staff in order to aid teaching.
- 7.10. Specialist resources are available for pupils with visual impairments, such as large print reading books.
- 7.11. Teaching assistants are deployed to implement specific literacy, numeracy and speech programmes.

8. Physical environment

- 8.1. Merridale Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff members, parents/carers and visitors have equal access to areas and facilities within the school premises.
- 8.2. The school has toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities which are fitted with a handrail and an emergency pull cord.
- 8.3. Where entrances to the school are not flat, a ramp is supplied for access.
- 8.4. Wide doors are fitted throughout the school to allow for wheelchair access.

9. Monitoring and review

- 9.1. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when new legislation/guidance concerning equality and disability is published or where there are changes to the physical layout of the building.
- 9.2. The school will review the policy in light of specialist SEND advice.

Reviewed: 6th March 2024

Date of next review: March 2026

Responsible member of staff: Mrs L Towle

Chair of Governors: Mohammed Rizwan

Merridale Primary School Accessibility Plan 2022

Access Statement

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) states that it is unlawful to treat people with disabilities less favourably without lawful and reasonable justification in Education and Employment Opportunities.

Wolverhampton City Council is committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and to provide an environment that enables everyone to participate in and contribute to the life of the City.

Category	Recommendations	Comments
External approach		Disabled parking space provided with drop down kerb for easy access to building.
Entrance Reception area		Access to the building is by level flooring.
Internal doors	Evaluate ease of access for wheel chair users and potential requirement for electronic opening device.	
Facilities		School keep thoroughfares clear and ensure storage of equipment does not impact on access around the building
Accessible WC		Disabled toilet is accessible.
Fire Exits		There are enough fire exits around school that are suitable for people with a disability
Accessible car parking		There is a place for disabled members of staff and visitors to park throughout the school day.