

## Accessibility Plan – 2017 to 2021

1) Highweek School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a four year period ahead of the next review date.

2) The accessibility plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

3) Highweek School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents 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 Highweek School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the **curriculum** as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or **auxiliary aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;

Improve and maintain access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;

Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

5) Highweek School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

6) Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

7) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following Highweek School policies, strategies and documents:

- Asset Management Plan
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Race Equality Policy
- School Brochure(s)
- School Development Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Development Policy

8) The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which was originally undertaken by the Local Authority and subsequently updated by the school and remains the responsibility of the governing board. It may not be feasible undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

9) Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Curriculum and Staffing Committee.

12) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan and will adopt in principle the "Devon Accessibility Strategy."

13) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

14) Equality Statement

'Equality and cohesion will be promoted, in line with our Equality and Cohesion Policy, and this policy will be operated in a non-discriminatory way'

Signed:.....Chair of Committee

Date of review and adoption by Governing Board: April 2017

Date for next review: April 2021