



Ponteland Middle School
part of Ponteland Academy Trust

Accessibility Plan ; Disability Equality Schemes in Schools

The PCMS vision is taken from John 10:10 ***‘that they should live life – and have it abundantly’.***

The Equality Act 2010: Schedule 10, Paragraph 3 states all schools must have an Accessibility Plan, reviewed every three years. It is also listed by the Department for Education as a required policy.

An accessibility plan is a plan for:

- (a) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum,
- (b) improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school, and
- (c) improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled. This must be within a reasonable time and in ways which are determined after taking account of the pupils' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

A disability under the Equality Act 2010 is
‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’.

This definition includes physical disabilities and others with sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer.

Ponteland Middle School has clear ways of identifying, assessing and making provision for SEN and Disability (SEND) as set out in our SEND Information Report 2016. As an inclusive school we welcome learners with different needs and are happy to listen to new requests for accessibility and add them to our Accessibility Plan when they arise. We respect the voice of the learner and the family and their preferences for how our learners' needs should be met.

Ponteland Middle School will make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that we minimise any disadvantage for disabled children and young people. We plan ahead, so thought is given in advance to what disabled stakeholders might require in the future and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage.

Current Position

Our current school position, including the provision we offer to our SEND pupils, is reflected in our SEND Information Report and Equalities Report.

We currently have 565 mainstream pupils in Year 5 to Year 8 on roll.

The proportion of pupils with SEND Support is in line with national averages whilst the proportion of pupils with an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan is below the national average.

This plan will be reviewed at least every 3 years. It may be amended sooner following feedback from users and dependent on changes to the pupil population.



Accessibility Plan for Ponteland Middle School from September 2016-2019

Curriculum

Priority	Action(s) to be taken	Timescales	Resources	Responsibility	Monitoring and evaluation	Annual Review
Consolidate the newly introduced curriculum model to enable SEND pupils to make good or better progress in all classes.	Precisely monitoring activities on evaluating impact of teaching/curriculum on SEND pupils' progress. Increase SENDCO release time to include specific monitoring time.	September 2016 ongoing	School budget additional ½ day release per week SENDCO	HT Resources Committee	SEND Governor/Trustee	September 2018
Consolidate the school's assessment system to monitor the attainment and progress of SEND pupils working below the expected level	SLT/SENDCO to investigate and evaluate assessment systems and select appropriate model which captures small steps of progress and gives leadership a clear picture of the achievement of SEND pupils.	September 2016 ongoing	Budget allocation for assessment system and training	HT SENDCO	SEND Governor/Trustee	September 2018
Adapt the curriculum to meet specific pupils' SEND	Introduce an annual curriculum review to identify and address the needs of the current SEND pupil cohort to inform the curriculum section of the accessibility plan	September 2016 and annually thereafter		SENDCO	HT SEND Governor/Trustee	September 2018