

Version	Date	Updated by
1.0	08-12--23	Julia Whitesides

Accessibility Plan

Statement of intent

This plan outlines how Silver Linings School aims to increase access to education for children with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the curriculum, physical environment and information).

A person is regarded as having a disability under the Equality Act where they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This plan aims to:

- Increase the extent to which children with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable children with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to children with disabilities.

The above aims will be delivered within a reasonable timeframe, and in ways which are determined after taking into account children's disabilities and the views of parents and pupils.

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

The governance also recognises its responsibilities towards employees with disabilities and will:

- Monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with equal opportunities.
- Provide appropriate support and provision for employees with disabilities to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively without barriers.
- Undertake reasonable adjustments to enable staff to access the workplace.

The plan will be resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised in consultation with:

- Childrens parents.
- The headteacher and other relevant members of staff.
- Proprietor and governance.
- External partners.

Legal framework

This plan has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

- DfE (2015) ‘Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years’

This plan operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Equality Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Admission and Transition Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Confidentiality, Privacy and Data Protection Policy

Roles and responsibilities

Governance/ proprietor will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that all accessibility planning adheres to and reflects the principles outlined in this plan.
- Approving this plan before it is implemented.
- Monitoring this plan.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff members are aware of children’s disabilities and medical conditions.
- Establishing whether a new child has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.
- Consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding children’s disabilities arise.

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

- Working closely with the proprietor and governance, LA and external agencies to effectively create and implement the school’s Accessibility Plan.
- Working closely with the proprietor and governance to ensure that children with SEND are appropriately supported.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this plan at all times.
- Supporting disabled children to access their environment and their education wherever necessary, e.g. by making reasonable adjustments to their practice.
- Ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any child as a result of their disability.

The Accessibility Audit

The School Proprietor will undertake an **annual** Accessibility Audit. The audit will cover the following three areas:

- **Access to the curriculum** – the proprietor will assess the extent to which children with disabilities can access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to the physical environment** – the proprietor will assess the extent to which children with disabilities can access the physical environment on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to information** – the proprietor will assess the extent to which children with disabilities can access information on an equal basis with their peers.

When conducting the audit, the proprietor will consider all kinds of disabilities and impairments, including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Ambulatory disabilities** – this includes children who use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- **Dexterity disabilities** – this includes those whose everyday manual handling of objects and fixtures may be impaired

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

- **Visual disabilities** – this includes those with visual impairments and sensitivities
- **Auditory disabilities** – this includes those with hearing impairments and sensitivities
- **Comprehension** – this includes hidden disabilities, such as autism and dyslexia

The findings from the audit will be used to identify short-, medium- and long-term actions to address specific gaps and improve access.

All actions will be carried out in a reasonable timeframe, and after taking into account children’s disabilities and the preferences of their parents.

The actions that will be undertaken are detailed in the following sections of this document.

Planning duty 1: Curriculum

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review	Progress and Evaluation
Short term	Meeting individual needs of children - Assess needs of pupils on admission to school	Provide necessary resources to meet needs as stated in EHCP	Proprietor Headteacher SENCo Teachers	Spring 2024	All staff aware of individual needs of the children Pupils effectively able to access the curriculum and school activities.	Autumn 2024	
Medium term	‘Monitoring and assessment strategies are developed to track pupils individual progress and needs, expressed in EHCP	Audit of the curriculum All teachers undergo identified training in	Headteacher, teachers, SENCo	Summer 2024	Management and teaching staff are aware of the accessibility gaps in the curriculum Pupils are effectively engaged and enable placements to be sustained.	Summer 2025	

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

		assessing pupil's needs.					
Long term	Skills-deficit' of staff members to support pupils with SEND	INSET provided to staff members. Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum.	Headteacher, Teachers, SENCo External advisors (if needed)	Autumn 2024	Staff members have the skills to support pupils with SEND Enhanced whole school expertise, growth in staff confidence in meeting pupils needs	Autumn 2025	

Planning duty 2: Physical environment

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review	Progress and Evaluation
Short term	Is the school's physical build environment readily accessible?	Audit and survey of physical buildings/ environment	School proprietor and HT in liaison with build team and external consult.	Autumn 2023	School is aware of accessibility barriers to its physical environment and will make a plan to address them	Summer 2024	

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

<p>Medium term</p>	<p>Classrooms and learning environment including access are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all children</p>	<p>Utilising floor plans: identify bases and spaces, design and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process</p>	<p>Proprietor and HT in liaison with build team and external consult.</p>	<p>Spring 2023</p>	<p>Facilities, learning environment, broad and balanced curriculum are accessible to all pupils on roll.</p> <p>Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils</p>	<p>Spring 2024</p>	
<p>Long term</p>	<p>Children, parents, visitors and LA officers with physical disabilities can access school buildings with an accessible disabled toilet</p>	<p>Audit and survey of physical buildings/ environment</p> <p>Make reasonably practicable adjustments to improve accessibility for individual pupils</p> <p>Undertake an assessment of individual pupils needs at time of referral to ensure the physical environment meets their individual needs</p>	<p>Identify location to install additional handrails, instate 'black/yellow' tape for visual hazard.</p> <p>Undertake RA & OT observational assessment as and when needed.</p> <p>Weekly visual checks of equipment.</p>	<p>Spring 2024</p>	<p>School buildings are fully accessible for learning and ablutions.</p>	<p>Spring 2025</p>	

<p><i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i></p>			
<p>Review due:</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Reviewed by:</p>	<p>Julia Whitesides</p>
<p>Date reviewed:</p>	<p>November 2023</p>	<p>Policy:</p>	<p>Accessibility Policy</p>

Planning duty 3: Information

	Issue	What	Who	When	Outcome	Review	Progress and Evaluation
Short term	Is statutory and other relevant school information easily accessible including being available on the website?	Audit of information and delivery procedures including website. Provide all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those identified that require it	Proprietor and HT	Spring 2024	School is aware of accessibility gaps to its information delivery procedures. All school information available for all including school website Delivery/sharing of school information to parents/carers and other agencies are readily available and continually improved	Autumn 2024	
Medium term	Is the quality of written information accessible to meet needs of pupils?	Where necessary seek advice from external advisors and identify impediment and barriers to provide/customise written information in alternative formats	Proprietor, HT and SENCo	Spring 2024	School is aware of local services for converting written information into alternative formats and written information is readable and fully accessible.	Spring 2025	

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy

		Incorporate schemes and develop an appropriate range of visual prompts and reinforcements to support individual styles of learning.					
Long term	Student friendly handbook available	Consult young people about key information and how to communicate it. (school council)	HT, SENCo, Teachers and TAs	Summer 2024	Accessible pupil friendly handbook produced.	Summer 2025	

<i>Silver Linings School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils feel safe and fulfil their personal emotional and academic potential.</i>			
Review due:	November 2024	Reviewed by:	Julia Whitesides
Date reviewed:	November 2023	Policy:	Accessibility Policy