



Skidby CE Primary School

Information about Disabled Access

Schools and the Education Authority must not discriminate against pupils with special educational need for a reason relating to their disability. They should promote the inclusion of special educational needs pupils in their admission arrangements and in all aspects of school life.

Accessibility Plans and Reasonable Adjustments

Schools vary widely in how accessible they are to pupils. You should check what improvements have been made to a school and what is being planned when considering a school for your child. Every school must have an accessibility plan, which shows how they intend to improve accessibility for special educational needs pupils, and when. The plan must be published and you can ask to see it. It will outline how the school will:

- improve the physical environment
- make improvements in the provision of information
- increase access to the curriculum

Schools can also increase access for individual pupils by making 'reasonable adjustments'. These can be simple changes such as making sure that all lessons take place in ground floor classrooms for a class where one of the pupils uses a wheelchair and the school does not have a lift. You should always talk to a school to discuss what it can reasonably do to include your child.

Improvements in the Physical Environment

Changes to the physical environment that a school could make to increase access might include:

- lighting and paint schemes to help visually impaired children
- lifts and ramps to help physically impaired children
- carpeting and acoustic tiling of classrooms to help hearing impaired pupils

Improving the Way Information Is Delivered To Pupils With Disabilities

Information that is normally provided in writing (such as handouts, timetables and textbooks) can be made more accessible by providing it:

- in Braille
- in large print
- on audio format

Understanding the Curriculum

Adjustments that would help children with disabilities have better access to the curriculum might include:

- changes to teaching and learning arrangements
- classroom organisation
- timetabling
- support from other pupils

Assistive Technology

Technology suited a child's needs can help them learn faster and more easily. Examples of technology that can help include:

- touch-screen computers, joysticks and tracker balls
- easy-to-use keyboards
- interactive whiteboards
- text-to-speech software
- Braille-translation software

Schools may already have this kind of technology available, or may be planning to get it. Arrangements for distributing resources and funding for equipment vary throughout the UK. If your child has a statement of special educational needs, the help that is detailed on their statement (which may include special equipment) must be provided.

School Transport

While the same basic rules apply to all children, the Education Authority can make a decision to provide transport on a case by case basis for a child with disabilities. Your Education Authority region office will assess your child's needs when making a decision, taking into account your child's health and/or disability. If your child is offered school transport, the vehicle should have the relevant equipment to suit your child's needs - for example wheelchair restraints, ramps or lifts. For more detailed information about approved transport arrangement, please refer to your local Education Authority.

If Your Child Cannot Attend For Medical Reasons

If your child cannot go to school because of medical needs or health problems, the Education Authority has a responsibility to enable them to continue their education. This could be achieved by lessons in hospital, for example.