

Information on requirements of the accessibility plan for schools

LEGISLATION

A. What schools must publish online

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online#special-educational-needs-sen-and-disability-information>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-and-colleges-should-publish-online#special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

The above DfE websites stipulate on their 'Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)' pages that: Schools must publish a SEN information report which must comply with Section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/section/69>

The location of the accessibility plan (i.e. where it can be found on the website) **must** be included in the SEN information report. The plan itself does not have to be part of the report. Ideally it should be a stand-alone document (rather than being part of the SEN information report or the Equality policy) as this makes it easy to find.

Including, at bullet point 4:

information as to the plan prepared by the governing body or proprietor under paragraph 3 of schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010 (accessibility plan) for:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can **participate in the school's curriculum**
- **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 and services provided or offered by the school
- improving the **delivery to disabled pupils of information** which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled

The accessibility plan must cover all three of these areas

B. The Equality Act 2010 (Paragraph 3 of schedule 10)

Reference:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/schedule/10>

The Equality Act 2010 provides additional information:

Accessibility plans

- (1) The responsible body of a school in England and Wales must prepare—
- (a) an accessibility plan;

(b) further such plans at such times as may be prescribed.

(2) An accessibility plan is a plan for, **over a prescribed period**—

- (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.

(3) The delivery in sub-paragraph (2)(c) must be—

- (a) **within a reasonable time;**
- (b) in ways which are determined after taking account of the pupils' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

(4) An accessibility plan must be in writing.

(5) The responsible body must keep its accessibility plan under review during the period to which it relates and, if necessary, revise it.

(6) The responsible body must implement its accessibility plan.

The accessibility plan cannot just be a description of what the school does now. It has to show what else the school plans to do over a specified period of time i.e. 1 year, 3 years

C. SEN code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2014

Reference:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf

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point xx: ...Schools ... must publish accessibility plans (and local authorities, accessibility strategies) setting out how they plan to increase access for disabled pupils to the curriculum, the physical environment and to information

point xxi: School governing bodies and proprietors **must** also publish...their accessibility plans

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Paragraph 4.35 The information must also include...the school's accessibility plans

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Paragraph 5.6 final bullet point

Maintained nursery schools **must** prepare a report on....their accessibility plan showing how the plan to **improve access over time**

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Paragraph 6.2 final bullet point

Every school is required to identify and address the SEN of the pupils that they support. Every school...**must**...prepare their accessibility plan showing how they plan to **improve access progressively over time**