



THE OUTDOORS SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Introduction

This document has been created with reference to the following guidance and legislation, all of which should be referred to in relation to decisions made as a result of learner or other accessibility issues to sites, resources, activities, and information;

1. Equality Act 2010
2. United Nations convention on Disability Rights

It's against the law for a school or other education provider to treat disabled students unfavourably. This includes:

- direct discrimination, for example refusing admission to a student because of disability
- indirect discrimination, for example only providing application forms in one format that may not be accessible
- discrimination arising from a disability, for example a disabled pupil is prevented from going outside at break time because it takes too long to get there
- harassment, for example a teacher shouts at a disabled student for not paying attention when the student's disability stops them from easily concentrating
- victimisation, for example suspending a disabled student because they've complained about harassment

Reasonable adjustments

An education provider has a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments' to make sure disabled students are not discriminated against. These changes could include providing extra support and aids (like specialist teachers or equipment).

As a school we are committed to providing accessibility options to those who require additional support to access facilities and we are committed in particular to the following;

1. **increasing access for disabled pupils to the school curriculum.**
This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits.
2. **improving access to the physical environment of schools.** This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education
3. **improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils.**
This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils.

Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable time frame.

As an independent special school we are aware of the importance of inclusivity and accessibility for all. However, we are also aware that we provide an alternative service to mainstream schooling and that this requires access to the outdoor environment over rough terrain and within woodland settings, all of which pose unique and particular accessibility issues that require consideration. For each of our sites we have produced an accessibility statement that explains current levels of accessibility and future accessibility improvement plans for the physical environment.

It should be noted that there will always exist on some sites, accessibility issues that cannot be overcome, this is due to the nature of the provision and the sites we operate from. However, as a setting we will endeavor to provide accessibility options suitable on at least one of our sites for whatever access issues exist. We are committed to providing accessibility to all wherever possible and to not seeing physical disability as a barrier to learning outdoors.

Also included in this document is a statement on how we will address accessibility of written information for those that require alternative options for this information.

Accessibility Plan for West Town Farm Site

West Town Farm is the main school site and has good parking facilities and access to the farmyard and classroom areas over good road and yard surfaces. There are disabled toilet facilities present and all classroom areas have access that is suitable for all. Access from the farmyard to the woodland area is over good road surfaces and level field access and as such provides suitable access to all areas of the school site, however there are some improvements that should be considered, these are highlighted below.

Targets:	Strategies:	Outcome:	Goals Achieved:
Improve walkways around woods to make them more stable for those with physical disabilities	Work to create main pathways to be done over 2018-19 academic year by The Outdoors Group Ltd staff, other paths to be added over subsequent years	Improved access throughout the woods for those with physical disabilities	
Improve drop off access to main	Work to create a nearer access	Improved access for those with	

woodland site to allow for better access for those with physical disabilities	point to be completed by Aug 2019	physical disabilities	
Availability of written material in alternative formats	If needed the school can provide written information in alternative formats.	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.	Arranged by request

Accessibility Plan for Shillingford Site

The Shillingford site has good car parking facilities and access into the woodland area via a raised wooden boardwalk allowing suitable access regardless of weather. Access around the woodland itself varies with weather conditions but is suitable for those who are equipped with proper footwear. There is no specific disabled toileting however there are a range of single toilets that are individually lockable that students with physical disabilities can access with support. Areas for improvement at Shillingford site are included in the table below.

Targets:	Strategies:	Outcome:	Goals Achieved:
Improve the start and end points of the walkways to help with access for those with physical disabilities	Build extended walkway areas to ensure transition from car park to woodland areas is as accessible as possible	Completed works by summer 2019	
Improve access over the stream from the field to help with transition between woodland and field environment	Build new wheelchair accessible bridge across the stream from the field	Build new bridge crossing by summer 2020	
Improve classroom facilities at the top end of the site to bring them up to the same standard as the new hut in lower site area	Erect a prefab building in place of current workshop area to improve facilities and access	Build new classroom area by summer 2021	
Availability of written material in	If needed the school can provide	Delivery of information to	Arranged by request

alternative formats	written information in alternative formats.	disabled pupils improved.	
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Accessibility Plan for Okehampton Site

The Okehampton site currently has no designated parking facilities and the track, whilst accessible in good weather would require a 4x4 to access it year round by vehicle. The Okehampton site has a good track running to the entrance of the woods and this is suitable for wheelchair access, the path that goes to the main firepit area is also suitable for all, however the rest of the woodland is largely inaccessible due to the steep nature and the shrub layer of holly. The access to the shelter and the toilet is suitable for all and the toilet, whilst not specifically designed for disabled users can be accessed with support and is an individually lockable unit. Accessibility improvements for the Okehampton site are included in the table below

Targets:	Strategies:	Outcome:	Goals Achieved:
Availability of written material in alternative formats	If needed the school can provide written information in alternative formats.	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.	Arranged by request
Management plan to clear holly from shrub layer to improve access	Site manager to clear holly shrub layer from targeted areas to create better accessibility	Improved access routes through woodland by summer 2020	

Accessibility Plan for Exmouth Site

The Exmouth site has good parking facilities and the site is relatively level and open between trees meaning access around the site is suitable for all. The toilet in Exmouth, whilst not specifically designed as a disabled facility can be accessed with support and is an individually lockable unit. The path into the woods from the car park is not suitable for those with significant physical disabilities and would not be suitable for a wheelchair to access. However, there is alternative access along a level bridleway that can be used for those who would not be able to use the existing path. Improvements for the Exmouth site can be seen in the table below.

Targets:	Strategies:	Outcome:	Goals Achieved:
Availability of written material in alternative formats	If needed the school can provide written information	Delivery of information to disabled pupils	Arranged by request

	in alternative formats.	improved.	
Improve wheelchair access and signs for wheelchair access	Clear brash from the bridle path to improve accessibility for wheelchair access route	by summer 2019 clear obstacles and overhanging trees	
Create a wheelchair accessible workbench for green woodworking	Create a workbench suitable for wheelchair use	by summer 2020 create a workbench at a suitable height for learners in wheelchairs	

Accessibility Plan for Tiverton Site

The Tiverton site has the best access for disability of all of our school sites, it is accessed from a level pavement and has disabled access throughout the buildings including a disabled toilet. It also has a tarmac path that runs the length of the site through the woodland allowing access to all areas for those with physical disabilities. There are some areas of the site that get quite muddy in poor conditions but there is still suitable access to all activity areas or at least very close to them to ensure participation is possible without disruption to the other learners or the sessions. Areas to improve accessibility in Tiverton are included in the table below.

Targets:	Strategies:	Outcome:	Goals Achieved:
Replace wooden bridge parts to improve the track through the site	Swap out the current wooden beam for a new one to improve the conditions under foot for learners accessing the pathway	Replace the beam on bridge by summer 2020	
Improve the bridge over the ditch to the main camp to make it wide enough for wheelchair access	Rebuild the current bridge wide enough to allow for disabled access from main pathway	Build new bridge by summer 2019	
Improve the main shelter area to provide better bad weather conditions	Build a custom shelter area over the main fire pit to improve shelter in	Build new shelter by summer 2019	

in the main camp area	lower half of the site		
Availability of written material in alternative formats	If needed the school can provide written information in alternative formats.	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.	Arranged by request

Accessibility to written material alternatives

The Outdoors School recognises that there is a need amongst some learners to access information in alternative formats to writing; whilst for some this can be as simple as changing the colour of the paper information is printed on, for others this will require something more involved. As a learning community we are committed to providing good links with parents/carers and referring agencies to help with the transition into our learning community. When this occurs we will look closely at the needs of the learners and provide alternatives to written information where necessary. This could be verbal instructions, use of video and audio equipment or specialist support such as signing where required.

We are committed to looking at these options in relation to the individual needs of learners and do not believe that one solution will work for everyone. Therefore we will include accessibility considerations into the philosophy of the individual learner centred approach we are committed to throughout the learning community.

Where accessibility to information is required in alternative formats to those seeking information about the school or applying on behalf of learners, this will be made available in alternative formats to written information in as far as this is practical.

Where it is necessary to provide information to learners or those applying on behalf of learners in another language this should be requested. The Outdoors School is supportive of those learners for whom English is an additional language and will both alter materials for admissions, policy and procedure to better aid understanding, and also will help with learner support throughout a family's engagement with The Outdoors School to ensure that access to education is as comprehensive as possible.