



Equality and Information Objectives including Accessibility Plans

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Introduction

This document supports and should be read alongside the Inclusive Multi Academy Trust Equality Plan 2023. This document can be found on the Trust website www.inclusivemat.co.uk

Beechfield's Beliefs

Be kind, work hard and love learning, so we are confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens.

Promises

Our three core beliefs **be kind, work hard and love learning** underpin everything we do. We believe in a positive culture of collaboration and support where we value, praise, reward and celebrate.

Through high expectations and positive relationships we enable our pupils from many different backgrounds and cultures to work together to become **confident, successful and responsible**.

We have a nurturing ethos that instils a sense of personal responsibility. We ensure everyone is **kind** and respectful towards themselves, others and their environment, developing **responsible citizens** for the future.

We value effort and working hard. We teach resilience and perseverance when faced with challenges and celebrate excellence and **success** when we **work hard** and give our best.

We inspire a **love of learning** through a rich and purposeful curriculum. We provide opportunities to learn about issues that affect our lives and communities, to enable all to become **confident**, independent thinkers and develop the skills needed to be successful in an ever changing world.

School context

Beechfield School is a non-denominational Community Primary School. It is part of the Inclusive Multi-Academy Trust and is situated in North Watford. The area is very multi-cultural. There are pockets of deprivation in an area of very mixed social composition, these include stable professional working backgrounds, to unemployed and single parent families. Housing is mixed and includes private ownership occupation, rented and housing association accommodation. Children are also admitted through fair access requests including from temporary accommodation at the Women's Refuge.

There are higher than average levels of mobility with many children joining the school after the start of term and mid-year. Many of these children arrive from abroad with no attainment data and some speak no English.

The local community benefits significantly from its great diversity of cultures and ethnicities. The school welcomes and includes all families. There are currently 44 named languages and dialects spoken in school by children, parents and staff. This is beneficial in successfully promoting inclusion, understanding, learning and community cohesion.

Those eligible for the pupil premium funding 86 PPG and 86 FSM (October 2023). However, this may not be a true reflection of the need of the community as many parents are unable to apply as they are new to the country and do not have recourse to public funds. The school has worked continuously to support families in the area and to address these issues.

The entry levels of children entering the Foundation Stage are generally significantly below age related expectation. This is because the children have poorly developed pre-learning skills and some speak only mother tongue, or are at an early stage of English language acquisition. This is reflected in assessment data that shows lower scores in language, communication, PSED, understanding of the world and mathematics than in other areas of learning.

The proportion of children speaking English as an additional language is now 57% but may be higher due to parents reporting that children's first language is English but may not be. The pupils' innate ability, attitudes to learning and parental support varies greatly between the different families. As a result, some groups far exceed national expectation whereas other groups fall below the national average. The year on year trend for this varies. *Data updated October 2023*

Characteristics (17.01.2022)	1.1.1	Breakdown (number and %)
Number of pupils	431	Number and % Female 212 49% Number and % Male 219 51%
Number of staff	65	62 Female 3 Male
Number of governors	9	6 67 % Female 3 33 % Male
Religious character		Non-Denominational
Attainment on entry		Lower than Hertfordshire/National Average
Mobility of school population		Highly mobile Since September 23 37 children joined
Pupils eligible for FME	86	86 FSM 86 PPG
Deprivation factor		
Disabled staff	0	
Disabled pupils (SEN/LDD)	73	14 EHCs 59 School support 26 SLCN 18 SEMH
Disabled pupils (no SEN)	3	
BME pupils	240	56% BME pupils
BME staff	20	31% BME staff
Pupils who speak English as an additional language		There are 44 languages: 190 English 71 Romanian/Moldavian 16 Urdu 10 Arabic, Albanian, Twi 9 Portuguese, Gujarati 8 Akan Twi, Polish, Tamil 7 Portugese Brazil 6 Turkish, Teugu 5 Hini, Russian
Average attendance rate		Attendance 2019-2020: 90.8% auth 7.4% unauth 1.9% (441 including ch who came and went) Attendance Year 2020-2021: 94.5% authorised 4.1% unath 1.4% (PPG 92.9%) Attendance Year 2021-2022 94.4% Attendance 2022-2023 – 94%
Significant partnerships, extended provision, etc.		DSPL 9, Challenge Sport, Acorns Centre, Chessbrook ESC, Salvation Army, Speech and Language, Hertfordshire SEND, Boxall Profile
Awards, accreditations, specialist status		National Nurturing Schools Award

Accessibility Plan

Context:

The intention of the Accessibility Plan is to:

1. Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum,
2. Improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services, and
3. Improve the delivery of written information to disabled pupils.

Description of school

The original school building was built in 1970. The KS2 block was completed in March 2013. Access to the school grounds is via two pedestrian entrances and a vehicle entrance from the public highway. All entrances have lockable gates.

All visitors report to the school reception area. This is situated at the front of the school and is accessible from either of the entrances. We have procedures in place to assist any pupil or visitor with a physical disability. The external door to the entrance and the new building, require a code for access which is given to staff only. Visitors wait in the reception area until granted access by one of the office staff.

School facilities

- There are two designated disabled parking bays at the front of the car park closest to the school reception area.
- Our fire alarm system provides visual aid for people with impaired hearing.
- The school has a unisex disabled toilet in the entrance corridor of the main building and one on each floor of the KS2 building.
- Visually contrasting colours are used on all external signage.
- Most doorways are accessible for wheelchair access. A new ramp has been installed to access Year 3 and the existing building from the KS2 side of the school.
- There is a lift in the Key Stage 2 building to get to the upper level.
- Where children or adults have a physical disability, where appropriate, a risk assessment will be undertaken and a designated escort will be available in case of evacuation. There is a specialised 'Fire Evacuation Chair' to enable disabled pupils to evacuate from upstairs.
- Should any information be inaccessible to any stakeholder, the school can arrange either to translate, read and/or explain the contents.
- The school will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments whenever necessary.
- All pregnant workers have a risk assessment which is reviewed throughout their pregnancy and also upon their return to work.

School Layout

The school is made up of two buildings – the older building at the front of the site containing the main reception area, EYFS and KS1. This building is all on one level apart from a few steps at the very back leading down to the main external exit door. Whilst there is no ramp for this exit, anyone requiring wheelchair access would be guided to the Year 3 Oak Classroom where a new ramp has been installed (July 2023). The newer building towards the back of the site houses KS2 and is made up of two floors. There is lift access should it be required.

Access to the whole of the school grounds is made possible by walkways incorporating slopes. Once a term, the HT and Estate Manager undertake a Health and Safety audit. Included in this review is a check of the building to ensure there are no potential hazards.

Classroom facilities

All classrooms, other than Years 5 & 6 (upper floor), have external doors. To improve acoustics throughout the school for people with impaired hearing, most classrooms are carpeted. We also have Sound Field Systems in all classrooms and the assembly hall.

Curriculum

The school provides a curriculum which meets the diverse needs of the pupils and support from teaching staff, teaching assistants and other professionals is targeted according to children's individual needs

Identifying Barriers to Access: A Checklist

This list has been used to help us identify barriers to access that may exist in our school. The list is not exhaustive but has encouraged us to ensure a flexible approach to the further questioning of the accessibility at Beechfield School. The checklist was completed by Mrs Jackson (Headteacher), Tanya Mortlock (Assistant Head).

Section 1: How does your school deliver the curriculum?

	Red	Amber	Green
Do you ensure that teachers and teaching assistants have the necessary training to teach and support disabled children?			x
Are your classrooms optimally organised for disabled pupils?			x
Do lessons provide opportunities for all pupils achieve?			x
Are lessons responsive to pupil diversity?			x
Do lessons involve work to be done by individuals, pairs, groups and the whole class?			x
Are all pupils encouraged to take part in music, drama and physical activities?			x
Do staff recognise and allow for the additional time required by some disabled pupils to use equipment in practical work?			x
Do staff recognise and allow for the mental effort expended by some disabled pupils, for example using lip reading?			x
Do staff provide alternative ways of giving access to experience or understanding for disabled pupils who cannot engage in particular activities, for example some forms of exercise in physical education?			x
Do you provide access to computer technology appropriate for students with disabilities?		X	
Are school visits, including overseas visits, made accessible to all pupils irrespective of attainment or impairment?			x
Are there high expectations of all pupils?			x
Do staff seek to remove all barriers to learning and participation?			x

Section 2: Is your school designed to meet the needs of all pupils?

	Red	Amber	Green
Does the size and layout of areas – including all academic, sporting, play, social facilities, classrooms, the assembly hall, canteen, library, gymnasium and outdoor sporting facilities, playgrounds and common rooms – allow access for all pupils?			x
Can pupils who use wheelchairs move around the school without experiencing barriers to access such as those caused by doorways, steps and stairs, toilet facilities and showers?			x
Are pathways of travel around the school site and parking arrangements safe, routes logical and well signed?			x
Are emergency and evacuation systems set up to inform ALL pupils, including pupils with SEN and disability; including alarms with both visual and auditory components?			x
Are non-visual guides used, to assist people to use buildings including lifts with tactile buttons? N/a			
Are any of the décor or signage considered to be confusing or disorientating for disabled pupils with visual impairment, autism or epilepsy?			x
Are areas to which pupils should have access well lit?			x
Are steps made to reduce background noise for hearing impaired pupils such as considering a room's acoustics, noisy equipment?			x
Is furniture and equipment selected, adjusted and located appropriately?			x

Section 3: How does your school deliver materials in other formats?

	Red	Amber	Green
Do you provide information in simple language, symbols large print, on audiotape or in Braille for pupils and prospective pupils who may have difficulty with standard forms of printed information?			
Do you ensure that information is presented to groups in a way which is user friendly for people with disabilities eg by reading aloud writing on the whiteboard and describing diagrams?		x	
Do you have the facilities such as ICT to produce written information in different formats?		x	
Do you ensure that staff are familiar with technology and practices developed to assist people with disabilities?		x	

Access Plan

This is the access plan for Beechfield School, which has been created after reviewing all aspects of the school site, the Inclusion Policy and the Equality Plan, and looking at options for improving accessibility within existing arrangements. The school has four years in which to meet the objectives. However, the school will monitor the implementation of the plan at least annually and keep under review the access needs of the school. In addition, the school will report on the progress of the plan at least yearly to the Local Governing Committee.

1: Access to the Curriculum:					
	Target	Action	Desired Outcome	Timescale	Review/Evaluation
Short term	To ensure that emotion and feeling vocabulary is taught throughout the curriculum. To ensure that children are given the tools to access vocabulary and emotion vocabulary.	Emotion boards to be present in the classroom. Children are taught the vocabulary of feelings and emotions through the curriculum. Teachers to extend and expand on vocabulary banks Specific tools to be created for individual children as appropriate, e.g. individualised emotion boards, Picture Exchange Communication Systems.	The vocabulary of feelings and emotions is used continuously. Children who struggle with the language of feelings and emotions are given visual/manipulative tools to use as a scaffold.	Spring Term 2019 continue to embed and then ongoing.	: Zones of regulation introduced on whole school staff INSET day. Rolled out into classes.PSHE curriculum autumn 1 is Protective Behaviour for whole school.Pastoral Team providing support for those who need it. Supporting 1:1 for those with SEMH. Zones of regulation is in place. First 2 days of term focused on Network Flower and Protective behaviours. Referrals to pastoral team as necessary. Risk reduction plans, anxiety mapping in place. All children have had a Boxall Profile carried out. Emotion boards in classrooms/on some children's desks. October 2023 – continue to embed and refine. We have 18 pupils with SEMH and a large pastoral need in the school.
Medium term	Ensure that teachers and teaching assistants have the necessary training to teach and support disabled pupils and that, through the training, classrooms are optimally organised for disabled pupils	SENCo to book targeted specialist SEN training for individual teachers according to the needs of the class (e.g. VI, ASD, HI) Access advice and strategies via the appropriate external agency e.g. Educational Psychologist, Colnbrook Outreach, Chessbrook, SPLD Base and Specialist Teachers. Ensure training for TAs as well as teachers.	Teachers empowered through training to support all pupils access to the curriculum Staff will be confident in managing specific needs within the classroom and school environment. Staff will be confident to use technology to support pupils with disabilities	Training to be sought and booked following discussions with the teachers at the earliest opportunity. Referrals made to the appropriate agencies.	Some pupils with SEND have external agency involvement. Advice and strategies are implemented. TAs attend Chessbrook, Scerts training, speech and language, liaise with Acorns Centre, Occupational Therapist. Advisory teacher been in for child in Reception. Training for AET planned for spring term 20. Susan Miller from Chessbrook in 5/10/19. : sequence of SEND CPD is planned for this year. 6 sessions focusing on different aspects of SEND. Training on specific difficulties with literacy was held. Strategies being put in place to support SEN pupils being supported remotely during lockdown. Inclusion checklist is in place in each classroom. Learning walks and Inclusion monitoring continues to support provision for neurodiverse pupils. SEND training has been held for staff.

Long term	Review PE curriculum to ensure PE accessible to all and caters for the interests of children with disabilities.	Gather information on accessible PE and disability sports. Gather information on external sports providers in the area that cater for children with disabilities.	Children with disabilities access sport in school. Parents and Carers are signposted to external sports providers who cater for children with disabilities.	On-going	Parent signposted to Watford FC sports courses for pupils with SEMH. : PE curriculum been reviewed so there is a clear progression in knowledge and skills. Sensory circuits run 3 times a week to support pupils with additional needs. All children access PE lessons. Where there are physical disabilities lessons are adapted so all children have the opportunity to participate and improve their skills.
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2: Physical Environment					
	Target	Action	Desired Outcome	Timescale	Review/Evaluation
Short term	The school is aware of the access needs of disabled pupils, staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors.	If appropriate, Health Care Plans completed. Car Park Passes are reviewed at least annually. School work closely with staff, governors and parents to understand needs.	The school is aware of staff, governors and parents access needs and meet as appropriate. Parents/Carers have access to all school activities.	On-going	There are parents who are allowed to park in the school car park. Yearly a school car parking letter is sent out to see who needs a car parking permit. 6 parents access this 2019. We have one parent with a mobility scooter. He occasionally uses the school car park. : school continues to support parents with specific needs. There are 4 families who use the school car park.
Medium Long Term	To ensure better accessibility for the whole school community around the outside of the school building.	Site Manager, Office Manager and SENCo to consider possible longer term solutions regarding the path leading in from the front gate to main entrance.	Paths to be less congested at drop off and pick up times.	On-going	Path quotes are coming in to widen the path. Covid 19 has meant a one way system has been implemented in school. The Sussex Road gate has also been opened to improve accessibility. The one way system has meant that pathways are less congested and more accessible. There are staggered starts at the end and the start of the day. Doors open from 830 to reduce congestion on the playground and to increase flow of pedestrian traffic. Very expensive to widen the path so this has been an alternative.

3: Delivering Materials in other formats					
	Target	Action	Desired Outcome	Timescale	Review/Evaluation
Short term	School to be aware of possible support by external providers to provide written information in different formats.	The school investigate services available through Hertfordshire and/or Charities for converting written information into alternative formats.	The school will be able to source external agencies to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes if and when required	Spring 2019 ongoing	There are school staff who speak different languages and they support with translation when needed. There is a translate button on the school website. School are using EAL Academy to look at systems to improve communications with our families who are EAL. We have a number of staff who are willing to translate for us. The most used are Polish, Romanian, Portuguese and Urdu. School continue to develop links with services and between the Trust schools so that we can provide translation for those who require it.

Medium Term	Regularly review stakeholders access arrangements to information provided by school in order that information is given in appropriate forms e.g. simplified language,	PST will continue to provide support to parent/carers when asked to read letters and support with applications etc. Provide translations as appropriate where the school has language matches.	Information is presented in ways which is accessible to stakeholders or support is provided for stakeholders to access the information.	On-going	PST have arranged for ESOI lessons to support parents with EAL. We provide language matches. Parent Voice meetings can address communication and what school can do to make it better. Parent Voice meetings, weekly parent coffee mornings to see what we can do to improve things for our parents. EAL Academy in November 2020 will look at systems. We have a number of staff who are willing to translate for us. The most used are Polish, Romanian, Portuguese and Urdu. Will need to continue with this
Long Term	To provide access to computer technology appropriate for students with disabilities.	Specialist Teachers to advise appropriate technology. SENCo and FSW to explore other avenues to acquire the appropriate technology e.g. personalised commissioning or charities.	Children with disabilities have access to specialist computer technology to enhance their access to the curriculum.	On-going	We use laptops to support children with handwriting, spelling difficulties. Also to support specific pupils Technology is also used as a motivator for specific pupils Purchase of Lexia £3850 to support pupils with Literacy difficulties Use of Catch up Fund. Pupil with VI i access to IT This continues to be an area of development for the inclusion team.

Equality Action Plan 2021/2022

Equality Objective	Protected Characteristic	R	A	G	Responsibility	Measurable Success Indicator	W h e n	Outcome/evaluation
Gaps close in attainment and progress between all groups of vulnerable pupils regardless of starting points	Age Disability Gender reassignment Marriage/Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity Ethnicity and race Religion and belief Sex Sexual orientation				Class teachers Phase Leaders SLT Curriculum Leaders analyse data, ensure actions taken close gaps and impact positively on attainment and progress. SLT will ensure in PPMs gaps are identified and provision is appropriate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement/excellence is evident in lessons. 2. Attendance and punctuality is monitored and improved, those that need support receive it 3. Disadvantaged children attain as well as non-disadvantaged children in school and nationally. 4. Monitoring evidences that staff have a range of strategies to draw upon to support all children. 5. 100% of teaching and learning is good or better. 6. Formative and summative assessment is used effectively. All delivered interventions accelerate learning and close gaps. 7. Outcomes/books/pupil voice/learning walks show evidence of excellence. Gaps in reading, writing and maths are closing. Children show aspiration and know what they need to do to improve further. Now and Next is evident in Maths and English books. END points are met 	o n g o i n g	Behaviour for learning is good as evidenced by learning walks. Attendance and punctuality is regularly monitored and targeted support is given to those that need it. There are still gaps between PPG and Non PPG in some year groups. We continue to support these pupils. Marking and feedback shows use of now and next. Parents and children are reminded to ask school if they need support with internet access. Free SIMs and laptops were provided for families who required it.

					8. All pupils have access to remote learning from home.	
Equality and diversity are promoted through all aspects of teaching and learning.	Age Disability Gender reassignment Marriage/Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity Ethnicity and race Religion and belief Sex Sexual orientation			Assemblies - SLT	1. A clear 2 year programme for Assemblies in place (whole school and phase) that promotes diversity and inclusion, e.g. specific communities culture, values and traditions, people of standing.	<p>This is in place and is continually being refined and developed to reflect our school community. A piece of music is listened to each week. The people who are talked about have been carefully selected .</p> <p>We did this but will need to revisit with our new parents.</p> <p>Subject leaders are continuing with this work this year. History and Geography are in process and leaders will continue to work through the rest of the subjects.</p> <p>Audit completed but it is ongoing work to ensure books are representative.</p>
				Children's Parliament All staff Pupil Voice SL	2. All pupils/staff are given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the life of the school and its community. 3. Opportunities for children/staff to talk about themselves, their culture, their diversity etc. Children can share their own experiences 4. Pupils/staff are able to talk explicitly about diversity in the school curriculum.	
				Parent Voice	5. Personally invite parents to discuss the curriculum and what their opinions are 6. Parents to share their knowledge of books, people, events that they feel should be included	
				Curriculum Development Subject Leaders SLT Staff	7. Subject leaders review their subjects over the year to ensure the school curriculum is representative of our diverse school and community and of wider society. 8. Staff to attend training where it is available. 9. Consider whole school events/visitors. 10. Consider what charities are collected for 11. When planning lessons staff are beginning to ask themselves: is this balanced? Is this accurate? Who benefits from this narrative? Are the sources trustworthy? Why are things told in this way? 12. Staff to begin to teach children to question what they are told/what they are learning as above (longer term aim can't be completed in one year)	
				Ensure diverse range of books English Lead/HT	13. Audit completed of reading material across the school in libraries, classrooms, reading scheme. 14. Start to purchase diverse texts for children to access in the library, in classrooms, through guided reading, in the reading scheme 15. Budget to purchase further books	

					<p>Learning Environment</p> <p>SLT/EF display lead</p> <p>16. Learning environment is conducive to learning, e.g. not over whelming for pupils with SEND, supportive for pupils with EAL etc.</p> <p>17. Learning environment is representative of our diverse school community (ethnicities and cultures, disabilities in our school) and wider society.</p>	<p>Inclusive checklist is in place. Neutral backing paper, not too much on walls.</p> <p>This continues to be ongoing work</p>
				<p>Embed PSHE and kindness</p> <p>18. Kindness and respect are embedded.</p> <p>19. Children talk confidently about how to keep themselves safe on and off line.</p> <p>20. Anti-racism underpins the whole school curriculum.</p> <p>21. Reduction in all types of prejudicial behaviour incidents are evident in the data.</p>		
<p>Develop and embed a staff culture that encourages and values EDI across our workforce enabling all staff to achieve their very best.</p>	<p>Age Disability Gender reassignment Marriage/Civil Partnership Pregnancy/Maternity Ethnicity and race Religion or belief Sex Sexual orientation</p>				<p>HT All staff</p> <p>1. HT to talk to staff 1:1 so they can participate and speak freely about EDI and their experiences, and make recommendations in a bid to eliminate any prejudice or systemic racism</p> <p>2. Consider a staff forum where school can agree a common language so all staff feel safe to openly discuss ethnicity, culture, prejudice, racism, anti-racism.</p> <p>3. EDI survey Staff feel that issues raised have been addressed with positive outcomes.</p>	<p>HT attending EDI training for academic year 23-24.</p> <p>EDI SURVEY conducted – need for training on specific issues identified e.g. religion and gender. Trust to support.</p>
<p>All staff appointments and promotions are made on the basis of ability and in compliance with the law.</p>					<p>Trust SLT</p> <p>1. Anonymised applications to acknowledge potential unconscious bias in the recruitment process, prioritising the very best candidate for any role</p> <p>Recruitment to positively reflect the diversity of our school community</p> <p>2. Enhance diversity on interview panels</p> <p>3. Trustee/governor recruitment to positively reflect the diversity of our school community</p>	<p>All applications are anonymised.</p>

Staffing of the school reflects the diversity of the community.								
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