



## **Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy 2022 to 2025 consultation**

**Open date:** 8 June 2022

**Close date:** 18 July 2022

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### **Overview**

**We are reviewing the Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy and we want to hear your views on the key priorities for 2022 to 2025.**

We have a duty to prepare and publish an Accessibility Strategy outlining the responsibilities for enabling all students to access education.

The accessibility strategy supports the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership vision "To build a better future for all children and young people in Buckinghamshire so that they realise their potential, whatever their starting point is".

We are committed to working alongside schools to ensure all students can access educational opportunities that best suit their needs.

### **What is an Accessibility Strategy?**

The Equality Act 2010 requires local authorities to put in place an accessibility strategy for disabled pupils. It is a strategy for:

- **Increasing access to the curriculum.** Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in schools' curriculum
- **Improving the physical environment of schools.** To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and the facilities offered by the school
- **Improving access to information.** Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils

## **Who does the Strategy apply to?**

This strategy applies to children and young people with disabilities:

- Who are currently in schools
- Who are in the school system but at an earlier key stage
- Who are not yet in the school system but are known to Buckinghamshire Council or other agencies

This strategy applies to local authority-maintained schools, nurseries, and early years settings only.

It does not apply to academies, Private Funded Initiative (PFI) schools or private nursery providers on school sites. However, the strategy may be useful in complying with their requirement to have an accessibility plan.

## **Other key strategies**

The Accessibility Strategy sits alongside other key strategies that support our broader ambitions for children and young people in Buckinghamshire:

- [The Buckinghamshire SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy 2022 to 2027](#)
- [The Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022 to 2025](#)
- [The Education Strategy 2022 to 2027](#) – due to be published later in 2022
- [The SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 to 2023](#)

These other key strategies are not part of this consultation.

## **We want to hear from you**

The accessibility strategy sets out how we continue to support the improvement of physical access and access to the curriculum for children and young people with disabilities.

It is a strategy for schools, governors, parents / carers, young people, professionals, and members of the local community.

We want to hear from individuals and organisations across Buckinghamshire, to help ensure we have identified key priorities and responsibilities.

This includes:

- Education providers of maintained Buckinghamshire Schools, including:

- Mainstream schools,
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs),
- Special schools,
- Independent schools, and
- Further education providers
- Parent / carer groups supporting children and young people with disabilities (e.g. FACT Bucks, SENDIAS)
- Early Years providers

### **Related documents**

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following document. This document is available on the Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy 2022 to 2025 consultation page at

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com>

- Draft Buckinghamshire Council Accessibility Strategy 2022 to 2025

### **How to have your say**

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com>
- Complete, and return, the printed version of the survey below

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at [engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or phone us on 01296 382662.

**Please tell us your views by midnight on Monday 18 July 2022.**

### **What happens next**

All feedback received through the consultation will be collated and analysed.

The findings will be reported to key decision-making bodies within the Council. This will inform the final version of the Strategy before it is presented to Cabinet for approval and adoption in Autumn 2022.

The strategy will be reviewed and revised towards the end of the period 2022 to 2025, following a consultation process in 2025.

## Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## Printed consultation survey

### Key priorities

Buckinghamshire Council continues to improve physical access and access to curriculum entitlement for children and young people with disabilities in its schools through:

- Encouraging all to share realistically high expectations for all children and young people
- Meeting the needs of young people in their local mainstream provision, where possible and appropriate to their needs
- Encouraging multi-agency working to support local placements
- Valuing diversity and encouraging all partners to recognise the benefits of having a diverse community of children and young people within each school or setting, who value one another and the different contributions they can make
- Increasing the confidence, skills, and expertise of mainstream staff through a comprehensive training programme to meet the more diverse needs of children and young people
  - Bespoke training provides further professional development of teaching and support staff to develop high quality teaching, targeted and personalised provision
  - The training is delivered by a range of Buckinghamshire Council Professionals, including Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists
- Embedding Ordinarily Available Provision guidance across schools and settings to support and ensure implementation of the graduated approach

- Promoting early identification and intervention within schools, supporting them to have more scope to be proactive and creative in identifying solutions for their students. At times this may include providing funding for specialist equipment
- Providing high quality advice and support to schools where needs are identified
- Managing the Education, Health and Care needs assessment effectively.
- Supporting the emerging emotional needs of students, particularly in relation to school avoidance

**1. If you think we need to consider any additional key priorities to improve physical access and access to curriculum entitlement for children and young people with disabilities, please tell us them here:**

## **Increasing access to the curriculum**

Buckinghamshire Council, as the local authority, and schools have responsibilities to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in schools' curriculum by an increased focus on relevance, modes of presentation and pupil involvement.

Buckinghamshire Council's responsibilities and schools' responsibilities are outlined on pages 6 to 8 of the draft Accessibility Strategy.

**2. Are the responsibilities for Buckinghamshire Council and for schools to 'increase access to the curriculum' clear in the draft strategy?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes, the responsibilities are clear
- No, the responsibilities are not clear
- Partly, some responsibilities are clear and some are not
- I don't know

If you think we could make these responsibilities clearer, please tell us how:

**3. If you have any other comments related to the responsibilities for 'increasing access to the curriculum', please tell us them here:**

### **Improving the physical environment**

Buckinghamshire Council, as the local authority, and schools have responsibilities to improve the physical environment of schools to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school.

- Buckinghamshire Council's responsibilities are outlined on page 9 of the draft Accessibility Strategy
- Schools' responsibilities are outlined on page 8 of the draft Accessibility Strategy

**4. Are the responsibilities for Buckinghamshire Council and for schools to 'improve the physical environment' clear in the draft strategy?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes, the responsibilities are clear
- No, the responsibilities are not clear
- Partly, some responsibilities are clear and some are not
- I don't know

If you think we could make these responsibilities clearer, please tell us how:

**5. If you have any other comments related to the responsibilities for 'increasing access to the curriculum', please tell us them here:**

### **Improving access to information**

Buckinghamshire Council, as the local authority, and schools have responsibilities to improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible by an increased focus on relevance, modes of presentation and pupil involvement.

Buckinghamshire Council's responsibilities and schools' responsibilities are outlined on pages 10 to 11 of the draft Accessibility Strategy.

**6. Are the responsibilities for Buckinghamshire Council and for schools to 'improve access to information' clear in the draft strategy?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes, the responsibilities are clear
- No, the responsibilities are not clear
- Partly, some responsibilities are clear and some are not
- I don't know

If you think we could make these responsibilities clearer, please tell us how:

**7. If you have any other comments related to the responsibilities for 'improving access to information', please tell us them here:**

## **Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy 2022 to 2025**

**8. Do you find the draft Accessibility Strategy easy to understand?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes, it is easy to understand
- No, it is not easy to understand
- Partly, some of it is easy to understand and some of it is not
- I don't know

If you think we could make the Accessibility Strategy easier to understand, please tell us how:

**9. If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy 2022 to 2025, please tell us them here:**

## About you

### 10. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- A parent / carer of a child or young person accessing education with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- An education professional in Buckinghamshire e.g. headteacher of a maintained school
- Early Years representatives (e.g. a provider of nursery provision)
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

### 11. If you are responding on behalf of a school or organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group), please provide the following details:

Name of school or organisation:

Your job title:

## 12. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
- Families and Carers Together (FACT) Buckinghamshire
- Schools Bulletin
- Schools Web
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

**End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by midnight on **Monday 18 July 2022.**

You can:

- Email it to [engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- Post it to **Accessibility Strategy 2022**, Education Transformation and Improvement Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA
- Take it to our council access point at Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA