Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres
Three-Year Accessibility Plan (2024-2027)

Overview

The ***Accessibility Plan*** details the measures that the Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres are adopting in order to eliminate barriers, foster inclusion for individuals with disabilities within our school community, and enhance accessibility. We are dedicated to identifying barriers hindering access to Whytecliff's facilities, programs, services, and information. By removing these barriers, we intend to make our premises accessible to everyone in the community.

This plan is rooted in the *accessibility principles* of Adaptability, Collaboration, Diversity, Inclusion, Self-Determination, and Universal Design, and is in alignment with the Accessible B.C. Act. The core priorities for enhancing accessibility will encompass the following three foci: information and communication, physical and architectural accessibility, and technological advancements.

Priority #1: Information and Communication
The school will ensure that information and communication is accessible to all individuals. As reflected by our policy, we will include guidelines for creating accessible documents, providing alternative formats, and promoting inclusive communication practices. Training and awareness programs will be conducted for staff, students, and parents to promote accessible communication practices.

Priority #2: Physical and Architectural Accessibility
Reviewing the input for members of the Whytecliff community, we seek to identify barriers in the physical and architectural environment of the school. Based on the findings, necessary actions will be taken to remove identified barriers. This may include installing ramps, handrails, accessible doorways, and signage to improve accessibility and navigation throughout the school. The school will also incorporate universal design principles in the planning and renovation of physical spaces, considering the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities to ensure facilities are accessible, comfortable, and inclusive for all.

Priority #3: Technological Advancements

The school will increase awareness and training to use assistive technology for students with disabilities. The school will ensure that its technology infrastructure, including computers, software, and educational platforms, supports the use of assistive technology. Individualized support will be provided to students by collaborating with parents, specialists, and experts to identify and implement assistive technology solutions that meet their specific needs.

Summary

By prioritizing these actions, Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres are dedicated to promoting accessibility, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for all individuals, including those with disabilities. The school will continuously evaluate its accessibility initiatives, seek feedback, and collaborate with the school community to drive ongoing improvement.

In our commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable educational environment, Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres are proud to present our Accessibility Plan. This plan is our ongoing strategic roadmap that outlines our dedication to ensuring that all members of our school community, regardless of ability or disability, have equal access to educational opportunities, facilities, and resources.

Measurable Outcomes:
- Increased accessibility features in our physical infrastructure
- Improved academic outcomes for students with disabilities
- Enhanced support services and resources
- A more inclusive and engaged school community

Monitoring and Evaluation:
Progress toward our accessibility goals will be regularly monitored and assessed, with feedback from students, parents, and staff being integral to our evaluation process.

Training
Whole-school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for the staff and Focus Foundation board members on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

Plan Availability:
The school makes the Accessibility Plan available in the following ways:
- A copy is posted on the school's website
- Paper copies are available from the front office

Review and Evaluation:
It is a requirement that our Accessibility Plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. The plan is valid for three years September 2024-August 2027 and is reviewed annually.

Complaints procedures:
Please refer to the school's published *Complaints Procedure*.

Accessibility Priorities:
Based on feedback, the school has identified the following areas as the top priority for improving accessibility in the school community.

Priority #1: Information and Communication

Whytecliff will enhance the accessibility of information and communication for all individuals, including those with disabilities, through the following actions:

Objectives	Action	Timeline
Develop and implement a clear and easy-to-navigate school website.	Create a website improvement plan	Revised website to be completed by January 2025
Ensure signage and print materials are legible, and graphically presented.	Keep signs clean and clear. Make information available in another forms, such as a chart or pictogram	2024-25 school year
The Burnaby campus needs better external signage	Due to COVID restrictions in place, the process has been slow. It must also be done with a Burnaby sign company.	New external building signage Spring 2025
Ensure that all communication to staff, students, and parents/guardians is written in plain and simple language.	Survey parents/guardians to determine their preferred method of communication and format Develop guidelines and examples for communication to all stakeholders	As part of follow-up process, implement a new Student Information Systems behind the existing website with parent sign in. The system is called *TUIO* August 2024-June 2025
Continuation of speciality training for students with disabilities	Provide staff training on the various types of accessible materials and innovative tools for using with students of diverse disabilities	2024 and ongoing

Priority #2: Physical and Architectural

Whytecliff Agile Learning Centre will improve the accessibility of the physical and architectural environment for all individuals, including those with disabilities through the following actions:

Objectives	Action	Timeline
Ensure school reception area is accessible to all visitors, students and staff	Assess possible changes to reception area for wheelchair users	September 2023 -June 2024
Clearly identify and maintain an accessible parking spot that is kept free from obstructions, for those with mobility issues	Burnaby campus, designate a location for drop-offs in close proximity to the entrance. Langley campus, have a parking stall designated for handicapped parking	September 2024 Bulletin Completed in summer of 2024
Develop a standard for hearing impairment related accessibility issues (including sound and light sensitivities)	Assess noise issues and determine solutions in classrooms and other areas of the school and provide ongoing training for staff	2023-2025 school year
Burnaby site is only available for wheelchair access on the main and lower floors and too small to accommodate a wider number of children.	Examine expanding the site and moving to a larger facility	2025-2026 school year
Provide alternative learning spaces for students with diverse needs and disabilities, implemented with the addition of new students with new disabilities	Create a plan and budget for the provision of additional alternative learning spaces or accommodations to address the needs identified	As the needs arise
Educational facilities: sound proofing, such as carpeting, to reduce noise confusion for students who have challenges with auditory comprehension, and dedicated sound producing rooms such as woodworking and music classes to be in areas away from classroom spaces	Develop a plan to evaluate the school's rooms to determine sound pollution. Then create a follow-up plan on how to address the challenges	2023-25 school year

Ensure the use of construction and decoration materials are the most advantageous for students with sensory challenges, particularly environmental conditions (smell, texture, lighting)	Conduct an audit of construction and decoration materials used to determine if they're presenting students with sensory challenges and, if so, create a plan to address the challenges	2023-25 school year

Priority #3: Technology

Whytecliff will increase awareness and training on assistive technology for students with disabilities.

Objectives	Action	Timeline
Increase awareness of specific assistive technology needs for students with disabilities	•Conduct annual class reviews of technology needs for students •Provide training for staff on the various technology needs of students	Ongoing
Provide access and ongoing training for the various technology tools needed	Commitment to ongoing Professional development for staff Technology implementation plan for training and supporting students in technology use	In our 2024-25 Pro-D plan
Update technology devices to better meet the needs of students with learning disabilities needs	For those having difficulty in reading, purchase a tool to facilitate reading	2023-24 purchased the C-Pen
Update PA system to ensure all announcements reach all areas of the school	Langley campus is in need of a new PA system, a wireless system, where rooms can be added on an at-need basis	2024-25 school year

How to Give us Feedback

In addition to the public availability of our annually updated 3-year plans, Whytecliff Agile learning Centre will continue to post an annual status report on the progress of the Three-Year Accessibility Plan on the school's website.

Questions, comments or feedback regarding the Accessibility Plan may be directed to Robert F. Kissner PhD, Head of School via

- Using the email address **rkissner@walc.ca**
- Calling the school at **604-428-4451 (Burnaby) or 604-532-1268 (Langley)**
- Using the 'contact us' comment section on the walc.ca website