

BC Muslim School



Accessibility Plan

Date: September 2023

Definitions

Accessibility: The state of having services, events and environments that permit all individuals to engage in society completely without encountering barriers.

Accessibility Plan: A plan developed by an Accessibility Committee that identifies limitations and solutions when addressing accessibility barriers.

Barrier: Anything that prevents a person from fully participating in all aspects of society because of an impairment. This includes attitudinal, physical/environmental, information, communications, and technological barriers. Types of barriers:

Attitudinal Barrier: A barrier that arises from the attitudes of staff, students, and the school community, including discriminatory behaviours and a lack of disability awareness.

Physical/environmental Barrier: A barrier resulting from building design, smells/sounds, lighting, the area adjacent to the building, shape of rooms, the size of doorways, and so on.

Information Barrier: A barrier that arises from inadequate or incomprehensible signage, difficulties reading brochures, forms, manuals, websites, equipment labels, computer screens, and so on.

Communication Barrier: A barrier that arises from difficulties receiving information in person, by telephone or online, interacting with teachers, peers, receptionists, or other staff, and receiving training.

Technological Barrier: Barriers as a result of devices such as computers, photocopiers, telephones, and switches, including the lack of assistive technologies.

Disability: The state of being unable to engage fully in society due to the interaction between an impairment and a barrier.

Impairment: A physical, sensory, mental, intellectual, cognitive limitation whether permanent, temporary, or episodic.

B.C. Context and Legislation – Accessible B.C. Act

- The Accessible British Columbia Act, enacted in June 2021, initially had accessibility planning requirements that only applied to provincial government organizations.
- The Accessible British Columbia Regulation, under the Accessible British Columbia Act, was enforced on September 1, 2022. These regulations label schools as accessible organizations, and school districts and independent schools will be required to have an

Accessibility Committee, an Accessibility Plan, and a tool to receive feedback on accessibility by September 1, 2023.

- The aim of the act is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and involve them in identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to their full participation in the life of the province.
- As per these regulations, BC Muslim School has established an Accessibility Committee consisting of members of the school administration, Learning Support, as well as the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

Our commitment to Accessibility

We are committed to providing an accessible and practical environment for all members of our community. We recognize the importance of conscious planning, design, and effort in making sure that barriers are removed, and accessibility is increased.

Our School's Aims

- To increase our effectiveness by working in collaboration with families and the wider community.
- To be a learning community which fosters creativity and excitement for learning.
- To deliver quality teaching, with high expectations for all, enables children to succeed and achieve their potential.
- For all members of the school community to model positive and respectful relationships.

Our Aims are to Provide:

1. Full access to the curriculum
2. Full access to the physical environment
3. Full access to information

Current Good Practices:

1. Our BC Muslim School (BCMS) app is designed to offer an accommodative tool that can translate textual information to different languages.

Objectives:

- To remove information barriers such as the difficulty that arises with difficulty understanding English.
- To strengthen relationships with parents and build an overall sense of community through more effective understanding and collaboration.

How this is Implemented:

- Written instructions of the BCMS App and its additional tools are provided to parents.
- Verbal one-to-one sessions are provided to individuals who need assistance in setting up the app and utilizing its functions.

2. We work to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents as part of our school admissions procedure.

Objectives:

- To gain awareness of child's needs as early as possible to ensure provision of necessary support.

How this is Implemented:

- Parents are provided with forms that share the health information of the child (e.g., Student information forms, Anaphylaxis forms, Emergency contact information forms, etc.).
- Follow up conversations are conducted via phone calls or in person.
- Teachers undergo training at the beginning and through the academic year during Pro-D days and other related staff meetings.

BC Muslim School Accessibility Plan 2023-2026

Improving Participation in the Academic Curriculum					
Priority	Lead	Strategy/Action	Resources	Timescale	Success Criteria
Effective use of resources to increase access to the academic curriculum for all pupils		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic deployment of support staff/ intervention teacher Purchase and allocate other resources as needed (e.g., Fidget toys to aid in hyperactivity thus improving concentration). 	Other resources required for individual pupils	In place and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive impact on pupil progress Barriers to learning are removed through extra support and tools
Improving Physical Environment					
Priority	Lead	Strategy/Action	Resources	Timescale	Success Criteria
Access into and around school and reception to be fully compliant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated disabled parking Wide doors and hallway Clear route through school 	Maintenance costs	Working towards	School will be fully accessible for wheelchair users
Improve Delivery of Written Information					
Availability of written material in alternative formats		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly newsletter emailed to parents/carers Improve availability of translated information for parents Continue services provided through the BCMS app (in place) and extend translation to the newsletter Key content published on school website 	Cost of translation/adaption	Working towards	All parents/carers Will be up to date and well aware of school information