

## **Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres Three-Year Accessibility Plan (2023-2026)**

### **Overview:**

The Accessibility Plan details the measures **Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres** will adopt to eliminate barriers, foster inclusion for individuals with disabilities within our school community, and enhance accessibility. We're 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.

After an extensive accessibility audit, we listed immediate priorities and devised a system for monitoring and evaluating progress via publicly accessible feedback forms between 2023-26.

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

### **Priority #1: Information and Communication**

The school will develop and implement an accessibility policy to ensure that information and communication are accessible to all individuals. This policy 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**

An accessibility audit will be conducted to identify barriers in the physical and architectural environment of the school. Based on the audit 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 on 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, 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 a 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.

Our Accessibility Plan will be implemented in stages, with regular assessments and adjustments to ensure effectiveness.

**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.

**Conclusion:**

Whytecliff Agile Learning Centres are committed to providing an inclusive and accessible educational experience for all. Our Accessibility Plan reflects our dedication to breaking down barriers and ensuring that every member of our community has the opportunity to succeed and thrive. Together, we will create an environment that celebrates diversity and fosters inclusivity.

**Training**

Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for staff and 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 2023-August 2026 and is reviewed annually.

**Complaints procedures:**

Please refer to the School’s published Complaints Procedure

**Accessibility Priorities:**

Based on a preliminary audit of our Burnaby facility, 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
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Develop and implement a clear and easy-to-navigate school website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Conduct school website audit</li> <li>•Create a website improvement plan</li> </ul>	<p>August 2023-June 2024</p> <p>Revised website to be completed by June 2024</p>
Website pictures to include descriptions to ensure it is accessible to people who rely on assistive technology	Provide descriptions or alt-tags for pictures for people who rely on assistive technology •	2024-25 school year
Ensure signage and print materials is legible	<p>Keep signs clean and clear.</p> <p>Make information available in another form, such as a chart or pictogram</p> <p>All school rooms have braille signs</p>	<p>2023-24 school year</p> <p>2024-25 school year</p>
Burnaby needs better external signage	The process has been complicated by municipal procedures requiring an extensive application which with covid hasn't been possible to make. It must also be done with a Burnaby sign company.	<p>August 2023 –June 2024</p> <p>New external building signage Spring 2024</p>
Ensure that all communication to staff, students, and parents/guardians is written in plain language and is available in alternate formats upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Survey parents/guardians to determine their preferred method of communication and format</li> <li>•Develop guidelines and examples for communication to all stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>2024-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As part of follow-up process for implementation of new Student Information Systems behind the existing website with parent sign in</li> <li>● Shift in community communications to full implementation through Student Information System</li> </ul> <p>August 2024-June 2025</p>
Continuation of speciality training for students with disabilities	Provide staff training on the various types of accessible materials available and how to use them	2023-2024 and ongoing
Videos, meetings & events needing closed captioning as these are not accessible to people with a hearing loss	Provide captions for videos and, when this is not possible, provide a text transcript of the video and meetings	2024-2025 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Conduct audit specific to wheelchair users (height of signage, counter)</li> <li>•Assess possible changes to reception area for wheelchair users</li> </ul>	September 2023 -June 2024
Clearly identify and maintain an accessible parking spot that is kept free from obstructions	Parking Space in Front Identified. But Not Communicated to Parents and Caregivers Directly	September 2023 Bulletin
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	<p>Conduct an audit of current alternate learning spaces that can meet the identified needs.</p> <p>Create a plan and budget for the provision of additional alternative learning spaces or accommodations to address the needs identified</p>	2023-24 school year
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 audit the school's rooms to determine sound pollution. Then create a follow-up plan on how to address the challenges	2023-24 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	2023-24 school year
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### 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Conduct annual class reviews of technology needs for students</li> <li>•Provide training for staff on the various technology needs of students</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Provide access and ongoing training for the various technology tools needed	<p>Commitment to ongoing Professional development for staff</p> <p>Technology implementation plan for training and supporting students in technology use</p>	2023-24 school year
Update technology devices to better meet the needs of students with learning disabilities needs	Complete Technology Audit and prioritize key areas for improving technology devices	2023-24 school year
Update PA system to ensure all announcements reach all areas of the school	Conduct a review of the PA system throughout the school and create a plan to ensure announcements are reached to all	2023-24 school year

## **How to Give us Feedback**

In addition to the public availability of the plan, 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. Accessible formats of the plan will be made available upon request. 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](mailto:rkissner@walc.ca)
- Calling the school at **604-428-4451**
- Scanning the Concerns QR code on the Principal's door
- Using the contact us comment section on the walc.ca website
- Writing Whytecliff Agile Learning Centre at 3450 Burnaby Road Barnaby BC V5M 4A5