

Freedom Thinkers Education PBL Society

Accessibility Plan (2026–2029)

Accessibility Statement

Freedom Thinkers Education PBL Society is committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible for all members of our school community. We believe that every student, employee, volunteer, parent, guardian, and visitor should have equitable opportunities to participate fully in school life.

Accessibility is not simply about removing barriers after they arise; it is about identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers before they become obstacles. We recognize that accessibility includes physical spaces, sensory environments, communication practices, learning opportunities, and social-emotional well-being.

Accessibility is everyone's responsibility. Every member of our school community shares in creating an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, valued, and able to succeed.

Purpose

The purpose of this Accessibility Plan is to:

- Identify and remove barriers to participation whenever possible.
- Promote an inclusive school culture.
- Support equitable access to learning and school activities.
- Encourage ongoing collaboration with students, families, staff, and community members.

Guiding Principles

Freedom Thinkers Education will strive to ensure that:

- Every person is treated with dignity and respect.
- Accessibility is considered in planning, decision-making, and daily operations.
- Barriers are identified proactively rather than reactively.
- Individual needs are respected whenever reasonably possible.
- Continuous improvement is achieved through regular consultation and feedback.

Accessibility Committee

Freedom Thinkers Education has established an Accessibility Committee to support the implementation and ongoing review of this Accessibility Plan.

The committee will:

- Review accessibility concerns and suggestions.
- Monitor progress toward accessibility goals.
- Recommend improvements.
- Review this plan annually.
- Update the plan as needed.

Areas of Accessibility

1. Physical Accessibility

Goal

Provide a school environment that is safe, welcoming, and accessible to individuals regardless of physical ability.

Current Practices

Freedom Thinkers Education strives to:

- Maintain clear and unobstructed walkways throughout the school.
- Ensure classrooms are arranged to accommodate mobility needs whenever possible.
- Keep entrances and exits free from unnecessary obstacles.
- Consider accessibility needs when planning school activities and events.
- Make reasonable accommodations for students, staff, and visitors with mobility needs.

Practical Considerations

Freedom Thinkers Education is committed to making our facilities and school grounds as accessible as reasonably possible. As a small independent school, we recognize that there may be occasions when the physical nature of our property presents temporary or unavoidable challenges.

Our school grounds include natural outdoor spaces that may occasionally contain uneven terrain or hazards, such as rabbit holes, which cannot always be eliminated. In these situations, staff will use sound judgment and take reasonable steps to minimize potential barriers or safety concerns while maintaining access to school activities.

Students, parents, guardians, staff, and visitors with accessibility needs are encouraged to notify the Principal in advance whenever possible when attending school functions or events. This allows the school to make appropriate arrangements to improve accessibility. For example, when necessary, the school will clear and prepare the entrance at the Grade 7–9 doorway, which provides the most accessible access to the building.

Freedom Thinkers Education is committed to working collaboratively with individuals to identify practical solutions that support participation while recognizing the unique characteristics of our school site.

Future Actions

The Accessibility Committee will continue to:

- Review the accessibility of school entrances, classrooms, washrooms, and outdoor learning spaces.
- Identify physical barriers that may limit participation.
- Prioritize improvements as resources become available.
- Ensure emergency procedures consider individuals with accessibility needs.
- Consider accessibility when purchasing new furniture or equipment.

2. Sensory Accessibility

Goal

Create learning environments that recognize and support the sensory needs of students and staff.

Current Practices

Freedom Thinkers Education recognizes that individuals may experience sensory sensitivities differently.

Where appropriate, staff may provide:

- Quiet workspaces.
- Flexible seating options.
- Opportunities for movement breaks.
- Alternative lighting when possible.
- Reduced sensory distractions during learning activities.
- Noise-reducing strategies when appropriate.

Individual sensory accommodations may also be included within Student Learning Programs or Individual Education Plans (IEPs), where applicable.

Future Actions

The Accessibility Committee will:

- Continue exploring sensory-friendly classroom practices.
- Encourage staff awareness of diverse sensory needs.
- Review classroom environments for unnecessary sensory barriers.
- Consider designated quiet or calming spaces when feasible.
- Consider feedback from students and families regarding sensory supports.

3. Social-Emotional Accessibility

Goal

Ensure all members of the school community experience a sense of belonging, inclusion, safety, and respect.

Current Practices

Freedom Thinkers Education promotes:

- Respectful relationships.
- Inclusive classroom communities.
- Personalized learning opportunities.
- Student voice and leadership.
- Restorative approaches to conflict resolution.
- Positive behaviour supports.
- Respect for individual strengths, learning styles, cultures, and perspectives.

Staff work collaboratively with families to support students' social-emotional development and remove barriers that may impact participation in learning.

Future Actions

The Accessibility Committee will:

- Continue promoting inclusive school practices.
- Encourage opportunities for student leadership and participation.
- Provide staff with ongoing learning opportunities related to inclusion and accessibility.
- Review school policies to ensure equitable access for all learners.
- Encourage feedback regarding school culture and belonging.

Identifying and Removing Barriers

Freedom Thinkers Education is committed to continuously identifying and removing barriers.

Barriers may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical barriers
- Architectural barriers
- Sensory barriers
- Communication barriers
- Information barriers
- Attitudinal barriers
- Social-emotional barriers

The school will consider accessibility during planning, purchasing, programming, communication, and policy development.

Feedback

Freedom Thinkers Education welcomes feedback regarding accessibility within our school community.

Feedback helps us identify barriers, improve accessibility, and strengthen our commitment to inclusive education.

Community members are encouraged to provide suggestions, identify barriers, or recommend improvements at any time.

Feedback may be submitted by email to:

Mrs. Sandra Cushway, Principal

Email: scushway@pris.ca

All feedback will be reviewed by the Accessibility Committee and considered during the annual review of this Accessibility Plan. Where appropriate, concerns may also be addressed as they arise.

Review of the Plan

The Accessibility Committee will review this plan annually to:

- Evaluate progress toward accessibility goals.
- Consider feedback received from the school community.
- Identify new barriers.
- Recommend improvements.
- Update priorities as needed.

The plan will be revised as necessary to reflect the evolving needs of the Freedom Thinkers Education community.

Commitment

Freedom Thinkers Education PBL Society believes that an accessible school benefits everyone. By working together to remove barriers and create inclusive opportunities, we strengthen our learning community and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to participate, contribute, and thrive.

Accessibility is everyone's responsibility. By working together, communicating individual needs, and using practical solutions where barriers exist, we can create an environment in which everyone feels welcomed, respected, and able to participate fully in our school community.

Accessibility Plan Updated: June 2026