



## **BURNABY MONTESSORI SCHOOL - ACCESSIBILITY ACT**

### **OUR COMMITMENT AND APPROACH:**

Burnaby Montessori School is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible school community for all children, families, staff, and visitors. We believe every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and participate fully in school life, having the right to be treated with dignity and given an opportunity to participate.

Our approach is grounded in the core provincial principles of accessibility, including adaptability, collaboration, diversity, inclusion, self-determination, and universal design.

This approach is designed to recognize the gaps and opportunities to improve accessibility in our school community. By engaging in thoughtful planning, meaningful engagement, training, and direct action, we aim to deliver lasting accessibility improvements for all members of our community.

### **WHAT ACCESSIBILITY MEANS TO US:**

Accessibility means removing barriers so that everyone can take part in school activities. Barriers may be physical, learning-related, communication-based, or social. We work to identify and reduce these barriers whenever possible.

#### **Supporting Children**

- We recognize that children learn in different ways and may need different kinds of support.
- When needed, we work with families to provide reasonable accommodations to support a child's learning and well-being.
- Support plans may be developed with parents and, when appropriate, outside professionals.
- Children are supported in a respectful and age-appropriate way.
- Inclusive Learning Environment
- Our classrooms reflect Montessori values of respect, independence, and care for each child.
- Teachers use flexible teaching approaches and materials to support different learning styles.
- We aim to create a safe and supportive environment where all children feel valued and included.

#### **Physical Accessibility**

- We make reasonable efforts to ensure our school spaces are safe and accessible.
- If a family or visitor has accessibility needs, we encourage them to contact the school so we can discuss available options.

#### **Communication and Information**

- School information is shared in clear and simple language.
- Families may request information in different formats when needed.
- We aim to keep our website and communications accessible to all families.

## Feedback and Questions

We welcome feedback from families about accessibility. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the school administration.

## Policy Review

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects current requirements and best practices in accessibility and inclusion.

## PRIORITY #1-IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

In spring 2023, we began the process of identifying barriers to accessibility in our school community. This process involved:

- Assessing the current physical and architectural accessibility of our school.
- Holding key discussions to identify barriers to accessibility
- Prioritization of actions to be taken

Burnaby Montessori 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 all spaces and communications are accessible	Conduct an environmental audit for accessibility.	2023
Increase awareness and plan for specific needs for students/staff with disabilities	Provide training for staff on various needs of students/staff	2023/24 Continuing
planning field trips or events	Consider current student body/staff when planning field trips and asking appropriate questions at the time of booking	Ongoing
School Website	Providing the community with Accessibility information on our website	2026
Establishing a committee	Seek feedback from staff, parents/guardians	2026/27

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*Burnaby Montessori School is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible environment where all children and families feel welcome and supported.*

## How to Give us Feedback:

In addition to the public availability of the plan on our website, questions, comments, or feedback regarding the Accessibility Plan may be directed to: [admin@burnabymontessori.com](mailto:admin@burnabymontessori.com) or call 604.558.1661