



Inverclyde Libraries

Accessibility Policy



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council

1. Introduction

Inverclyde Libraries provide access to a wide range of resources in our role as a provider of information and promoter of educational, recreational and lifelong learning opportunities to the whole community. This access is given in a number of different premises and on our website. Throughout all our provision we aim to ensure that every effort is taken to minimise or remove any barrier to access. We will continue to work in partnership with other organisations to ensure that we do this to the best of our abilities. We continually train our staff in order to increase awareness of the variety of access requirements our users have.

2. Physical Access

Inverclyde Libraries are working towards making all of our branches full accessible. Whenever we open a new library, move premises or refit an existing building we will endeavour to make the building fully compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.

As well as making our entrances accessible we also aim to make interiors fully accessible. We will make intelligent use of space and environment and work with partner organisations to ensure the library can be enjoyed by all and is as Equalities Act compliant as possible.

3. Website Access

Our website fits in within the corporate design provided by Inverclyde Council. Within their website they have a number of accessibility options allowing users to use Access Keys and change the background colour.

The website also meets W3C web standards for XHTML 1.0, CSS and Double A conformance. The website also functions using BrowseAloud software as well as other text reading programmes.

4. Access to Reading Materials

Inverclyde Libraries provide a wide range of reading material aimed at meeting reader needs. We have Quick Reads, large print and audio books available in each branch or available by free request from other branches. Our audio books are available in physical formats or via download. We also have materials specifically aimed at children such as multi-sensory, tactile and dyslexia friendly books.

Inverclyde Libraries have signed up to the RNIB Reading Sight Six Steps programme. This contains six objectives that libraries must aim for in order to meet the needs of visually impaired readers.

Any leaflets that are produced by Inverclyde Libraries can also be made available in other formats as requested. These include large print, Braille, audio and digital.

We also have access to a Braille printer and can produce other documents in this format.

5. Access to IT

Inverclyde Libraries continue to ensure we have a comprehensive range of computer software and hardware to meet the needs of users with accessibility needs. Our computers have software such as Text Read and Write Gold and Supernova allowing full access to a number of tools to change screen appearance or work as a text reader. Our staff are also trained in changing the accessibility settings on our IT equipment and accessing software.

We also have a range of hardware including large print keyboards and ergonomic mice that can be fitted to computers with ease. The library works in partnership with the ABC Project (Access to Beginners in Computing). The project staff offer one to one support to learners and provide staff training and information. Library staff will be happy to provide more information about software and equipment on request.

5. Access to Learning

All of the learning opportunities provided within Inverclyde Libraries can be adapted to meet learners' needs. The ABC Project can provide one to one IT based learning for adults. In addition to this, all of our other learning opportunities take place in accessible environments with access to additional support tools. In the event that an environment is not accessible then the learning can be moved to an area that is.

6. Problems/Issues

If a library user (either virtual or physical) has an issue to raise regarding the accessibility of Inverclyde Libraries then they should not hesitate to contact a member of staff or phone 01475 712 323. Each situation will be dealt with individually and with empathy and understanding.