



Accessibility Plan

Date ratified by Principal	Jan 2021
Date policy to be reviewed	Jan 2024



INTRODUCTION

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled students", issued by DfEs in July 2002.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

KEY OBJECTIVE

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to full participation in the academy community for students, prospective students and our adult users with a disability.

PRINCIPLES

1. Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the Academy aims, equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the Academy's SEN policy;
2. The Academy recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):
 - not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
 - not to treat disabled students less favourably
 - to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled students at a substantial disadvantage
 - to publish an Accessibility Plan.
3. In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice (2002).
4. The Academy recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.
5. The Academy provides all students with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual students and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:
 - setting suitable learning challenges
 - responding to students' diverse learning needs
 - overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual and groups of students.



ACTIVITY

The Academy has identified the following points for action as part of its School Improvement Plan, in order to achieve the key objective:

a) DELIVERY OF THE CURRICULUM

Academy staff receive training in making the curriculum accessible to all students, and are aware of its importance.

The Academy will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

b) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Academy will take account of the needs of students and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

In particular:

- Provide desks with a clear underside height of 700mm a working height of 760mm and a minimum width of 1200mm. This would enable a person seated in a wheelchair to position themselves comfortably with other students.
- In the dining area, consideration should be given to provide some tables without fixed seating. This would ensure that the seating is suitable for all, in particular for people with restricted mobility.
- Incorporation of appropriate colour schemes when refurbishing to benefit students with visual impairments.
- The taps in some toilets are rounded and require a twisting action. At refurbishment, install lever taps which would help a person with poor grip.

c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN OTHER FORMATS

The Academy is aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

LINKED POLICIES

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related Academy policies, e.g.

- SEN Policy
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy
- Health & Safety Policy