

Academy Accessibility Plan



Responsibility:	Anosh Bhugvandeem / Gemma Hunt
Date of Ratification by Governing Body:	September 2019
Date of Review by Governing Body:	September 2022

Vision and values

Through partnerships with local communities, Willenhall E-ACT Academy will strive to create a happy, safe, inclusive and challenging learning environment that develops independent, healthy and confident learners. We will ensure that all our learners including those with a disability, aspire to the highest of standards, are economically aware and make a positive contribution to the wider world.

In order to enjoy and access a balanced, rigorous and inclusive curriculum through which children learn effectively, the staff and academy ambassadors aim to work with the wider school community partners to:

- Promote equal opportunities for all as an inclusive school regardless of disability, race, gender, culture or religion and make reasonable adjustments to the curriculum where required to cater for the needs of all pupils.
- Set high standards and targets for all pupils including those with a disability.
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment for all pupils.
- Develop pupil collaboration and independent learning opportunities.
- Make sure that all pupils are happy and fulfilled having a positive self-esteem.
- Equip all of our pupils with the necessary life-skills and become literate and numerate in order to gain a lifelong means of communication.
- Promote positive attitudes in pupils to enable them to develop socially, morally and spiritually so that they can make the right choices to stay safe.
- To positively encourage awareness and acceptance of disability both in and out of the classroom.
- Not to treat disabled pupils less favorably for a reason related to their disability.
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

Definition of disability:

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

(a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment

(b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Purpose of the plan:**

To reduce and eliminate barriers in accessing the curriculum and to enable full participation in the academy community for pupils, prospective pupils and adult users with a disability.

This plan sets out the proposals to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the academy curriculum;
- improving the environment of the academy to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

The academy's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary.

Monitoring arrangements:

This document will be reviewed every 3 years but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- SEND and learning policy
- Special Educational Needs School Information Report (SIR)
- Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the academy's curriculum

Increasing access for disabled pupils to the academy curriculum and improving teaching and learning lies at the heart of the academy's work. Through self-review and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), we aim to enhance staff knowledge, skills and understanding to promote excellent teaching and learning for all children. We aim to meet every child's needs within mixed ability, inclusive classes. It is a core value of the academy that all children are enabled to participate fully in the broader life of the academy. Consequently, all children have always been permitted to attend age relevant after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and educational visits.

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Time scale	Responsibility
To enable staff to increase their knowledge, understanding and confidence to differentiate the curriculum to support pupils with a range of additional needs.	Training of all staff. Personalized CPD for teachers to include how to support pupils with a range SEND, ensuring their needs are met (e.g. Sensory needs/Communication & Interaction needs/ Cognition and Learning needs and Social Emotional and Mental Health needs.	Improve academic outcomes for SEND pupils by supporting staff to deliver a 'personalized' curriculum, which will directly support the individual needs of all pupils.	From Autumn 1 2019 and ongoing throughout the academic year.	SENCO Specialized professional practitioners
To ensure progress of SEND pupils is evidenced in a variety of ways and implement new progress measures.	For SEND staff training on both SISRA and SIMS software systems to access and record progress of pupils for tracking and monitoring purposes.	Half-termly analysis of progress and attainment data of disabled pupils to ensure target grade/levels are being met. Identify appropriate intervention and support for pupils below target. Evidence of improved outcomes and target achieved evident in learning walks, book trawls and future assessments.	Ongoing Ongoing	SENCO Assistant SENCO SEND departmental staff

<p>Ensure classroom support staff have specific training on disability issues.</p>	<p>Support Staff to access appropriate CPD for example, ASD, Sensory Impairments as well as EAL for pupils who have additional learning barriers.</p> <p>Opportunities to work with outside agencies on how best to support children in their care for example Educational Psychologist and SEMH specialists</p>	<p>Support staff are able to meet the needs of children in their care.</p> <p>A range of support staff will have specialist skills through training received.</p> <p>Support staff will have coaching opportunities with outside on delivering effective intervention.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SENCO</p>
<p>All educational visits to be accessible to all.</p>	<p>Sharing guidance for staff on making trips accessible. Including ensuring each venue is vetted for appropriateness.</p> <p>Share Individual Support and/or Care Plans (ISP IHCP) with staff for individual children.</p> <p>Risk assessments take into consideration medical needs and disabilities and appropriate provision is put into place</p>	<p>Trips will be accessible to all SEND and disabled pupils and all staff will be competent in supporting children with additional needs and disabilities.</p> <p>All pupils able to take part in a range of activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Trip coordinator (MB)</p> <p>SENCo.</p> <p>All staff involved in planning trips and supporting children on them.</p>
<p>To ensure PE is accessible to all and extra-curricular activities.</p>	<p>Ensure SEND staff are trained to support pupils to participate in sporting activities.</p> <p>Staff to be aware of children's limitations and care plans to be shared with staff.</p>	<p>All students will be able to participate in sports and extracurricular activities with reasonable adjustments despite having a disability.</p> <p>Pupils with a disability to have the opportunity to participate in sporting events alongside children with disabilities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SEND and All staff</p> <p>SENCO</p>

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy is fully committed to making reasonable adjustments to allow disabled pupils to access educational provision at the academy. The academy occupies a two-storey building. A range of classrooms and leisure facilities are accessible to all through two lifts. The ground floor is accessible to wheelchair users. Classrooms and doorways are adequate for wheelchair access. There are a number of disabled toilets throughout the academy, a dedicated wet room and changing room, these rooms are complete with hoists as is the swimming pool.

is situated in a listed building site varying from single storey to two storey aspects of the building. The ground floor is fully accessible via steps and ramps.

The academy will take account of the needs of pupils 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.

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Time scale	Responsibility
Ensure all disabled pupils can be safely evacuated.	Put in place and keep updated Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) for all pupils with difficulties.	All staff are clear on evacuation procedures for pupils.	Ongoing	Site Manager/Head teacher / SENCO
	Fire Marshals to receive updated training on how to evacuate all persons, including disabled people safely and a plan to be updated.	Clear understanding of the individual needs to safely evacuate all people.	Ongoing	
	Fire drills to ensure speedy evacuations and identify any issues.	Any issues to be addressed immediately and plans amended appropriately.	Termly/ Annually	
		All persons with disabilities able to access and evacuate areas of the buildings.	Ongoing	

<p>To ensure the accessibility of all disabled persons.</p>	<p>All corridors, entrances to be kept clear of obstructions.</p> <p>Learning environments to be clear and tidy to support all pupils with disabilities including sensory needs including displays.</p>	<p>Pupils and people with disabilities to be able to move around the academy safely.</p> <p>Improved access to learning environments for all pupils.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>From September 2019</p>	<p>All staff/ Site manager</p>
<p>To identify any further maintenance on site which may impact on persons with a disability.</p>	<p>Site manager to conduct a detailed audit of the building and a maintenance plan to be written with clear details of future updates.</p>	<p>Ensure all improvements and maintenance supports pupils and people with disabilities to access the site.</p>	<p>July 2019</p>	<p>Site manager / regional site and health and safety team.</p>

Improving the delivery of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.



Target	Strategy	Outcome	Time scale	Responsibility
<p>Review information to parents/carers and children to ensure it is accessible.</p>	<p>Provide information and letters in clear print and different formats where necessary e.g. different languages, enlarged font or braille.</p> <p>Academy office will support and help parents to access information and complete academy forms.</p> <p>To use social media platforms to communicate more effectively.</p>	<p>All parents will be able to access information and will be kept informed of relevant news.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Teachers Support staff SENCO Office Staff IT</p>
<p>For information to be accessible for children with SEND needs.</p>	<p>Clear font and colours to be used and adapted for children with varying SEND needs (E.g. large font for children with VI and coloured overlays for children with dyslexia)</p> <p>For information to be differentiated for children with learning needs or speech and language needs.</p>	<p>Children with dyslexia and visual impairments to be able to access information delivered in class.</p> <p>Children with language difficulties to be able to access information at their own level and in a way that is meaningful to them.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SENCO All staff</p>