



BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

# Accessibility Policy & Plan

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# Accessibility Policy and Plan

## Purpose

This policy and plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. The SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) amended part 4 of the DDA so that it became applicable to education and to prevent discrimination against disabled people in their access to education.

The definition of disability is taken from the Disability Discrimination Act 1995:

"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."

This legislation places three key duties on the academy:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favorably for a reason related to their disability;
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled students, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage; and
- Plan to increase access for disabled students.

## Policy

The Academy Trust aims to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the School community for pupils and prospective pupils with a disability.

The Trust aims to meet the needs of disabled staff, parents and visitors to the School so that they are accommodated within our environment, as far as is reasonably practical.

Our Accessibility Plan will aim to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School curriculum;
- Improve the physical environment of the School to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of the educational provision and associated services;
- Improve the delivery of information for disabled pupils which is provided to students who are not disabled, taking account of the views expressed by pupils and their parents about their preferred means of communication;
- Promote positive attitudes to disabled people; and
- Promote equal opportunities for all learners.

## Curriculum delivery

The school's vision statement and SEN policy make clear the school's approach to the delivery of the curriculum. The school actively seeks the support and advice of all relevant services to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all students. Relevant modifications to the delivery of the curriculum are negotiated on an individual basis as required.

## Individual needs

Priorities set out in this plan may change to accommodate the changing needs of individuals, as advised by SENDCo (for pupils), Family Liaison Officer (for parents) and line managers (for staff).

The school works closely with Cornwall Council Assessment and Educational Provision Team, SENDI team and the community physiotherapy team regarding the equipment loan service for individual pupil's adaptations.

## **Actions Already Taken**

- Continuing Professional Development for all staff to increase awareness of the access requirements and provision for pupils, parents and staff.
- Personal evacuation plans
- Medical protocols for all children with identified medical conditions that require supervision and/or emergency medicine.
- Intimate Care Plans for all pupils who require additional support for their self-help needs
- Specialist SEND ICT equipment accessed and available for pupils in response to individual need
- Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties training for members of staff to offer specific support for children
- All pupils with disabilities have a passport to relay their preferred mode of communication, assistance and special arrangements
- School built in 2007, DDA compliant.
- New build reception class structure is DDA compliant.
- Improved access to the Venture Zone.

## **Further Actions Planned**

- Parent, pupil and staff questionnaires to inform ongoing actions to improve accessibility
- Sensory needs training for all members of staff to ensure that children's needs are met in class and during trips
- All policies equality impact assessed to take account of the guidance in this policy
- Continued training to build capacity and expertise of all staff to enable access for all.

## **Linked Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Scheme, SEN Policy and our Safeguarding Policy.

## **Review and Evaluation**

This plan has the approval of the governing body and will be reviewed, evaluated and amended annually. It is monitored and evaluated by the Head of School.

## **Communicating the accessibility plan**

The plan will be available on the school website and copies available on request.

## **Sustainability of the Policy**

It is envisaged that the accessibility policy and plan will become a starting point for all aspects of school development including; policies and schemes of work; curriculum; staff training and associated services.