Accessibility Plan 2017-2020

Signed by:

Chair of Governors Date:

Committee with oversight for this policy	Full Governing Board
Policy to be approved by	Full Governing Board
Policy last ratified and adopted by Full Governing Body	December 2017
Policy / Document due for review	December 2020

At Woodlands Academy our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child has access to a wide range of opportunities for learning. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote a community ethos of positive attitudes where we nurture and challenge pupils to achieve their full potential. We work hard to ensure that all children are able to develop their own interests, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's self-esteem and confidence. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

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, and

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

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

Objectives

Woodlands Academy is committed to providing an environment that enables full access to the curriculum which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

The Woodlands Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;

- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;

- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

The Woodlands Academy Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Emergency Plan
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Resource Committee.

The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

Woodlands Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Action Plan A – Improving Physical Access

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Wheelchair access to Library and other areas of the school with raised door frames.	Site manager to investigate and obtain a portable ramp which could be used to provide access as necessary.		Medium	Quotes to be sought	
2	Disabled parking	Spaces to be provided closer to school entrance	Ongoing	Low		
3	Disabled Toilet	Access from EY to disabled toilet is limited due to doors and location of exit buttons. Investigate ways of accessing disabled toilet from Nursery and Reception.	Ongoing	Low		

Woodlands Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Action Plan B – Improving Curriculum Access

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Differentiation in Teaching	SLT to monitor quality of differentiation and provision for SEND pupils.	Spring Term 2018	High		
2	Interventions	Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion to monitor current interventions and their success/impact on progress. Interventions to be updated half termly based on data and teacher feedback regarding current priorities.	Ongoing	High	Resourcing costs of identified areas to develop	
3	Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Environmental checklist observations to be carried out twice a year for identified children with SEND. SLT to monitor the learning environments around the school to ensure quality provision for all pupils.	Ongoing	High	Possible resource implications where gaps are identified	
4	Staff training in the production, implementation and review IEPs to ensure all children are able to access the curriculum at an appropriate level.	Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion to deliver staff training to teaching staff.	Ongoing	High		

Woodlands Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Action Plan C: Improving the Delivery of Written Information

Ref	Question	Recommendations	Time Scale	Priority	Cost	Date Completed
1	Availability of written material in alternative formats when specifically requested	The school will make itself aware of the services available for converting written information into alternativeformats.	Ongoing		Not applicable	
2	Review documentation on website to check accessibility for parents with English as an Additional Language	The school will review formats publicised on school website – particularly for new parents to the school, in order to ensure accessibility for parents with English as an additional language.	Ongoing		Not applicable	