



The Academy at
St James
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

Accessibility Plan

Academy St James

2020/22



A member of
the **bdot** family

Approved by Governors on: 13-07-2021
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Vision Statement

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, 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 listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At Academy St James the Plan will form part of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the headteacher and evaluated by the schools Governing committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At Academy St James we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

- 1) The Academy St James Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three-year period ahead of the next review date.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Academy St James is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that 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.
- 4) The Academy St James 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 disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are 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 – these 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.

- 5) The Academy St James Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.
- 6) 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.
- 7) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - Curriculum Policy
 - Emergency Management Plan
 - Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Equality Plan
 - School Prospectus
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Special Educational Needs Policy
 - Staff Development Policy
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

- 11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governing Body Meetings
- 12) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability,
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of information to pupils,

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

Current good practice

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening. We ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided.

Physical Environment

There are very few parts of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible

Curriculum

Through Planning for Individual Need, we aim to provide as inclusive an approach as practically possible, however, there are areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Other issues affect the participation of disabled pupils, for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff.

Access Audit

The school is a single storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. All classes are accessible at ground level, with wide door access to all rooms. The hall is on the ground floor and is accessible to all.

On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes four dedicated disabled parking bays. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities available, one in main entrance area, which is available to the public as it is within the secure holding area before entry to the main school and one with school facilities. All these are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

Management, coordination, and implementation

- We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

Action Plan

Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is 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.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	To liaise with preschool providers to review potential intake for Sept	To identify pupils who may need additional to or different from provision for Sept Intake	Sept	Deputy HT SENCO EYFS teacher	Procedures/equipment/ ideas set in place by Sept.
	To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	HT & Governors All subject leaders	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
	To establish close liaison with parents	To ensure collaboration and sharing between school and families.	Ongoing throughout Year	HT, DT, SENCO All Teachers	Clear collaborative working approach
	To establish close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with on-going health needs. Eg. Children with severe asthma, allergies, epilepsy or mobility issues.	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel	Ongoing throughout Year	HT TAs Outside agencies	Clear collaborative working approach Medial notifications updated at least annually
	To ensure full access to the curriculum for all children.	Outside Play visits; Employment of specialist advisory teachers; CPD for staff and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A differentiated curriculum with alternatives offered. • A range of support staff including trained teaching assistants • Multimedia activities to support most curriculum areas • Use of interactive ICT equipment • Specific equipment sourced from occupational therapy 	Ongoing	Teachers SENCO Special school Ed Psych	Advice taken and strategies evident in classroom practice. ASD children supported and accessing curriculum.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
MEDIUM TERM	To finely review attainment of all SEN pupils.	SENCO/Class teacher meetings/Pupil progress Scrutiny of assessment system Regular liaison with parents	Termly	Class teachers SENCO	Progress made towards IEP targets Provision mapping shows clear steps and progress made
	To promote the involvement of disabled students in classroom discussions/activities To take account of variety of learning styles when teaching	Within the Curriculum, the school aims to provide full access to all aspects of the curriculum by providing (where appropriate) • Wheelchair access Creating positive images of disability within the school so that pupils grow into adults who have some understanding of the needs of disabled people.	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Variety of learning styles and multi-sensory activities evident in planning and in the classrooms. Ensuring that the needs of all disabled pupils, parents and staff are represented within the school.
	Targets	• Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
LONG TERM	To evaluate and review the above short and long term targets annually	See above	Annually	SLT, Core curriculum co-ordinators Governors	All children making good progress.
	To deliver findings to the Governing Body	Governors meetings	Annually Termly SEN Governor / SENCO meetings	SENCO SMT/SEN Governor	Governors fully informed about SEN provision and progress

Aim 2 : To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	Improve physical environment of school environment	The school will take account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting and colour schemes, clear signage and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SLT	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
	Ensure visually stimulating environment for all children	Colourful, lively displays in classrooms and inviting role play areas.	Ongoing	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Lively and inviting environment maintained.
	Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of IEP process • Undertake confidential survey of staff and governors to ascertain access needs and make sure they are met in the school and meetings etc. 	With immediate effect, to be constantly reviewed	Teaching and non-teaching staff Inclusion Leader	Enabling needs to be met where possible
	To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent interviews, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual protocols where needed.	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	HT and DHT SBM SENCO Occupational health Inclusion Leader	
	Ensuring disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise disabled parking spaces for disabled to drop off & collect children • offer a telephone call to explain letters home for some parents who need this • adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents 	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Whole school team With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education

MEDIUM TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	To improve community links	School to continue to have strong links with schools in BDAT and the wider community.	Ongoing	SLT All staff	Improved awareness of disabilities/the wider community of Bradford and the world and their needs Improved community cohesion
LONG TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	Continue to develop playgrounds and facilities.	Look for funding opportunities	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Inclusive child-friendly play areas.
	To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe as possible.	Communication with parents via safety messages/letters/walk to school week	Ongoing	PSHE Co-ordinator SLT	No accidents

Aim 3 : To improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils and parents.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	To ensure all children with ASD have access to the curriculum	Regular parental communication Individualised multi-sensory teaching strategies used for ASD children.	Ongoing	All staff to be aware	ASD children able to access curriculum.
	To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate symbol software to support learners with reading difficulties. • Raising awareness of font size and page layouts will support pupils with visual impairments. • Auditing the school library to ensure the availability of large font and easy read texts will improve access. • Auditing signage around the school to ensure that is accessible to all is a valuable exercise. 			
	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
MEDIUM TERM	To review children's records ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities	Information collected about new children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records passed up to each class teacher. • End of year class teacher meetings • Annual reviews • IEP meetings • Medical forms updated annually for all children • Personal health plans • Significant health problems – children's photos displayed on staffroom notice board / info 	Annually	Class teachers Inclusion Leader Outside agencies SLT Office staff Parents	All staff are fully aware of individual needs and all care plans/IEPPs are passed on.
	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
LONG TERM	In school record system to be reviewed and improved where necessary. (Records on Sims/ network/ protected	Record keeping system to be reviewed.	Continual review and improvement	Assessment Co-ordinator/SLT	Effective communication of information about disabilities throughout school.