



Dukesgate Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Accessibility Plan

2019 -2022

Updated: September 2019

Review Date: September 2020

Introduction

Dukesgate aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up to show our commitment to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their age, education, physical, sensory, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

At Dukesgate, we are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

Dukesgate is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including disability issues. The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan and affirms its commitment to ongoing training in this area.

Dukesgate's complaints' procedure and policy covers this accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this accessibility plan, including pupils, parents, staff & governors of the school.

Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the DfE guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled 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 undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Dukesgate recognises its responsibilities to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided. This can include for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises. If a pupil with a disability is given a place at Dukesgate, reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate pupil need.
- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum by expanding and making reasonable adjustments as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. This covers teaching and learning, and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve and make reasonable adjustments to 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 time frame.

The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the access audit of the school which is undertaken regularly. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this first accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forwards into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of the first three-year plan period to inform the development of the new plan for the following period. Access audits are carried out by the Head Teacher, School Business Manager, Site Manager and Inclusion Team. Recommendations are made and prioritised according to need.

If a pupil with a disability is given a place at Dukesgate academy, any adaptation will be made to accommodate pupil need.

Monitoring

This plan will be reviewed every three years but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

Links with other documents

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents

- Risk Assessment policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Equality information and objectives (Public Sector Equality Duty) statement for publication
- Special Educational Needs' Information report
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

Improving the physical access at Dukesgate Academy				
Target	Action	Outcome	Who	Time
Ensure playground is marked appropriately for visually impaired children.	Paint white / yellow lines in KS2 playground to mark transition levels.	Transition levels of floor are effectively highlighted.	Site Manager	Summer term annually
Carpet areas in classrooms to be made suitable for visually impaired children.	Seek advice from VI team when replacing carpets in classrooms and corridors.	Replacement carpets to show clear tonal difference between chair legs and floor.	SBM	As budget allows
Ensure access to reception area to all.	Replace front door to academy with automatic door which provides wheelchair access.	Access to the main reception area is wheelchair friendly.	SBM	Autumn 2019

Improving the curriculum access at Dukesgate					
Targets	Strategy	Outcome	Who	Time	Success Criteria
Audit of pupil needs and staff training to meet those needs.	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations.	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available.	All Staff	On-going	All school activities are accessible to all disabled pupils.
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure, where reasonable, the participation of the whole range of pupils – including Y6 residential trip.	Review all out of school provision to ensure compliance with legislation. Head of inclusion to track and monitor uptake of clubs by vulnerable pupils – including adding attendance at such to PEP targets. Risk assessments and training to ensure pupils with medical conditions have equal access to residential trip in Y6.	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements.	Office JG YD & LW	On-going	All out-of-school activities are accessible to all disabled pupils.

Classrooms are optimally organised and all appropriate additional equipment is provided to promote the participation and independence of all pupils and adults alike.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases.	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils.	All Staff	Start of each academic year. If further need arises.	Increase access to the curriculum.
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues	Provide and access training for governors, staff, pupils and parents. Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school.	Whole school community aware of issues relating to access.	All staff	On-going	Community will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment.

Improving the delivery of written communication at Dukesgate Academy					
Targets	Strategy	Outcome	Who	Time	Success Criteria
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 alternative formats.	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when requested for individual purposes.	Office HT, SLT & teachers	On-going	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats when specifically requested.	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats when specifically requested.	All school information available for all who request it.	Office HT, SLT & teachers	On-going	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved.
Review documentation with a view to ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment.	Get advice on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customized materials.	All school information available for all who request it.	Office HT, SLT & teachers	On-going	Delivery