

Accessibility Plan 2026–2029

Updated: March 2026

Review Date: March 2027

1. Introduction

Dukesgate Academy is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff, parents, and visitors feel valued and included, regardless of age, education, physical ability, sensory need, emotional or cultural background. We aim to challenge negative attitudes toward disability, promote equality, and ensure all members of the community have equitable access to education, facilities, and information. This plan aligns with the Equality Act 2010, SEND Code of Practice 2014, our statutory duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty, and relevant school policies.

2. Monitoring and Review

This plan will be reviewed annually and updated if required. A full revision will occur every three years (next cycle 2028–2031). Access audits will be completed annually by the Principal, Cluster Operations Manager and the SENCo.

3A. Improving the Physical Environment

Target	Action	Outcome	Who	Time
Ensure playground markings support visually impaired pupils.	Repaint high-contrast markings on steps, edges, and changes in floor levels.	Improved navigation and safety for visually impaired pupils.	Site Manager	Summer term annually
Ensure carpets and flooring support accessibility.	Consult VI specialists when replacing flooring; ensure tonal contrast.	Clear visibility of furniture; improved mobility.	Site manager in consultation with the Principal	As budget allows
Ensure accessible entrance for all users.	Maintain automatic door; review annually for accessibility needs.	Barrier-free, wheelchair-accessible entrance.	SBM	Autumn annually

3B. Improving Curriculum Access

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Who	Time	Success Criteria
Audit pupil needs and staff training requirements.	Review needs; provide training on SEND, VI/HI, ASD, ADHD, medical conditions.	Staff equipped to meet diverse needs.	SENCo	Ongoing	Full SEND participation in curriculum.
Ensure out-of-school activities are accessible.	Review provision; ensure inclusive planning; monitor participation.	All pupils able to attend clubs, trips, and residential.	Office / Inclusion Team	Ongoing	Increased participation by SEND pupils.
Ensure classrooms are optimally organised.	Review layout; provide adapted seating, sloped boards, sensory tools.	Lessons begin promptly without adjustments needed.	Teaching Staff	Start of year / as needed	Improved engagement and independence.

3C. Improving Access to Written Information

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Who	Time	Success Criteria
Provide written materials in alternative formats.	Identify services; expand in-house ability to create letters in alternative languages.	Individuals receive materials in appropriate formats.	SENCo in consultation with EMTAS	Ongoing	Improved access to communication.
Ensure school publications are accessible.	Create accessible digital versions; offer large print on request.	Inclusive communication for all parents.	Office / SLT	Ongoing	All parents able to access information.
Improve accessibility for pupils with visual impairment.	Use IT software; ensure consistent size, font, contrast.	Clear and usable information for VI pupils.	Teachers / SLT	Ongoing	VI pupils able to access all materials.