

# **Accessibility Plan for Woodvale Academy**

*Improving the physical environment of academies to enable those with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided*

Sophia Hands  
12.10.2016

# Introduction

1. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Greenwood Academies Trust Board, pupils, parents, staff and Advisory Councillors of the Academy and covers the period from October 2016 – October 2019.
2. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
3. The Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT) plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to all of our sites. Individual Accessibility Plans are produced for each Academy and contain relevant actions to:
  - a. Improve access to the physical environment of the Academy, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment and physical aids to access education.
  - b. 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. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the Academy such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities, off site visits etc. It also includes the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist disabled pupils in accessing the curriculum.
  - c. Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. This will include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the Academy and its events. The information will be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.
4. Attached are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. The plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Action Plans will be produced every three (3) years.
5. We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff, Trustees and Advisory Councillors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.
6. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of following documents:
  - SEN and Disability Policy
  - Admissions Policy
  - Pupil Behaviour and Exclusions Policy
  - Every Child Matters
  - Organisation of Pupil Learning
  - Education Brief
  - Academy Improvement Plans
  - Academy Brochures
  - Asset Management Plan

7. The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the Academy, which is undertaken regularly by the Health and Safety Team. 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 forward into subsequent plans. The audit will be reviewed prior to the end of each three year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.
8. As curriculum policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added to that on Equality and Diversity. The terms of reference for the GAT Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) and Advisory Council committees will contain an item on 'having regard to matters relating to Access'.
9. The Academy Brochure will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.
10. The Academy's Complaints Procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
11. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in each Academy's Annual Report to Parents (statutory).
12. The Plan will be monitored through the Academy Advisory Council. Each Council will produce a termly report on progress against the plan for the GAT F&GP.
13. The Academy will work in partnership with all stakeholders in developing and implementing this plan.
14. The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

## **Resources**

Building Bulletin 103: Area guidelines for Mainstream Schools

Approved Document M

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/540330/BR\\_PDF\\_AD\\_M1\\_2015\\_with\\_2016\\_amendments\\_V3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540330/BR_PDF_AD_M1_2015_with_2016_amendments_V3.pdf)

Gov.Uk Fire Safety Risk Assessment- Escape for Disabled People

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/422202/9446\\_Means\\_of\\_Escape\\_v2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422202/9446_Means_of_Escape_v2_.pdf)

LABC Building Regulations in Practice - Accessible Toilets by David Spooner

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/documents/planningbuildingcontrol/LABCAccessible%20Toilet%20Diagram%20and%20Advice.pdf>

## **Physical Accessibility**

## Physical Accessibility Action summary

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
1.	A disabled user should be able to reach the flush using a hand, an elbow, or any other part of the body. Some people do it with their chin. If it is not on the open side, it will be impossible to reach from a wheelchair. The flush mechanisms in KS1 & KS2 accessible WCs were located on the wrong side of the cistern. The accessible WC by the front entrance has the flush on the open side but has the wrong lever.	Refit the flush handles to the open side of the cistern in KS1 and KS2. Replace the flush handle in accessible WC by the front entrance to a paddle handle toilet level.	The Principal	16.04.2017
2.	A specialist hygiene room is available with space for assistants (minimum 9m <sup>2</sup> ) to change a pupil however there is no hoist or emergency pull cord available and the hand towel dispenser is too far away from the WC.	The following should be installed as and when a disabled pupil joins the academy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a fixed or mobile hoist is needed</li> <li>• Emergency pull cord</li> </ul> And the hand towel dispenser moved closer to the WC	The Principal	16.04.2017
3.	There is no accessible WC available for early years and KS1.	There is room to install an accessible WC for early years and KS1 in Early Years toilets. Two toilets can be taken out of use and converted into one accessible WC of suitable size for the children to use. (WC with seat height between 300-350mm. Grab rail height to 100-150mm above the seat height and 300-400mm from the centre of the seat).	The Principal	16.04.2017
4.	The shower unit in early years is not accessible for those confined in a wheelchair.	The floor level should be lowered to meet ground level as and when this facility is required.	The Principal	16.04.2017

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
5.	Hand towels cannot be reached from the accessible WCs to allow a user to dry their hands before moving back to their chair.	Relocate the hand towel dispenser closer to the WC.	The Principal	16.04.2017
6.	Adjustable height desks and workbenches are not available for use by those with limited mobility,	Recommend purchasing height adjustable furniture as and when required	The Principal	16.04.2017
7.	It would be difficult for a visually impaired person to identify sockets as they are the same colour as the wall surrounding them.	It is recommended that these are edged in a contrasting colour, such as the colour used for the door frames, to highlight their location	The Principal	16.04.2017
8.	Fixed hearing loop is available but it unclear if it is operational or whether any persons are trained in its use	Enquire with Amey as to whether they should be maintaining this piece of equipment or the academy. If it is the academy; make arrangements to have the hearing loop serviced and for the contractor to provide training for staff in its use.	The Principal	16.04.2017
9.	Height above pedestrian walkways are not obstructed	The height of displays will need to be monitored to ensure a person with visual impairment can pass without becoming entangled.	The Principal	16.04.2017

# Mobility Impairment



## Circulation routes

Walkways are wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair user and an ambulant person side-by-side.

There is level access into the academy from the front and rear of the building.  
Car park surface is even with no holes and designated accessible parking spaces.  
Joints between surfaces and pavers are not more than 5mm wide.  
Inspection chamber covers and service inspection chambers are flush with the surface.  
Designated accessible parking spaces are available with drop kerbs and level access to pedestrian walkway.  
Pedestrian gates or entrances onto the grounds have a min clear opening width of 850mm

## EXTERNAL STEPS TO TOP FIELD

Steps and treads are uniform with landings provided at the top and bottom with a min length of 900mm

Every flight with three or more risers has a suitable handrail to one side and to both sides where flight is wider than 1000mm to aid those with mobility impairment.

## COMMUNAL ENTRANCE AND RECEPTION AREAS

Door has a minimum width of 775mm  
Threshold is accessible (does not impede wheelchair access)  
Entry doors are power assisted  
Emergency exit (green button) fitted to the inside  
Reception lobby is wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair and companion.  
Counter: appropriate width & height, with adequate knee recess

## MAIN HALL

Access to and from the area is suitable width for those with mobility impairment to move around.  
Dining furniture is suitable for use for those in a wheelchair and allows interaction between all pupils and staff whilst dining.

## Classrooms

Classrooms with a final exit have a wide door with level threshold for ease of exit in an emergency.  
Access routes around the classroom  
Emergency escape from the classroom; ramped egress from final exit

## Accessible WCs

Three accessible WCs available for staff use, one is set at junior height and can be allocated to KS2 if required.  
Sufficient manoeuvring space outside the door to the WC.

Tap is located on the corner of the washbasin nearest to the toilet.

The ceiling pull switch is located so that it can be operated from the toilet and from an adjacent floor area, the switch has two G pulls.

## Hygiene room

The hygiene room contains a changing bed and accessible WC

## Visual Impairment

### LIGHTING AND CONTRAST

Lighting is suitable and sufficient

Light sources do not create unnecessary shadows (shadows can create optical illusions)

Glare is avoided from shiny or glossy surfaces

Light levels through different rooms and levels are equal

Walls, floors and doors are of contrasting colours.

Colour scheme is simple and number of colours used is limited

Manifestations across glass doors



### CIRCULATION ROUTES

Highlighted nosings are provided each step's tread and riser, to help visually impaired people identify the location of the steps.

## Hearing Impairment

Visual alarms (beacons) are in use in where those with hearing impairment might be alone, such as accessible toilets,





# Curriculum Accessibility

Equal Opportunities practices should be evident in

- The formal curriculum (the programme of lessons)
- The informal curriculum (extra-curricular activities)
- The hidden curriculum (the ethos of the school, SMSC, the quality of personal relationships etc.)

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
1.	Ensure that all children have access to the curriculum regardless of their disability.	<p>Adaptations to activities where necessary to enable every child in a class to access them.</p> <p>Embed teaching and learning strategies that enable children with specific learning difficulties and speech and language difficulties to access the curriculum (e.g. visual and kinaesthetic resources, task lists, support materials etc)</p> <p>Refer to and take advice from external agencies about provision for specific children.</p> <p>Visual timetables and support materials provided for children with ASD or attachment difficulties.</p> <p>Support materials available for children with visual impairment e.g. coloured paper, different font.</p>	Senco Teachers TAs	On going
2.	Ensure TAs have access to specific training on disability issues.	<p>Audit TA training needs and inform professional development process.</p> <p>Work with TAs through PDRs to develop their specific skills.</p>	Principal Senco	On going

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
		<p>TAs to have access to relevant CPD courses each year.</p> <p>TAs to have relevant access to training on disability issues affecting children they work with.</p>		
3.	Ensure school trips are accessible to all.	<p>Ensure inclusion statement in Educational Visits policy.</p> <p>Develop guidance for staff and parents on making trips accessible. Develop appendix to Ed. Visits Policy</p> <p>Work with parents and trip destination staff to ensure access, and make appropriate plans.</p> <p>Ensure risk assessment includes accessibility issues.</p> <p>When organising a trip the school will take into account accessibility for all children in the group.</p> <p>Alternative arrangements for children who cannot access some aspects of the trip will be made where possible.</p>	<p>Principal / All Staff</p> <p>Principal</p> <p>Staff organising the Educational Visits</p>	<p>Summer 2016</p> <p>Summer 2016</p> <p>On-going By Need</p> <p>On-going By Need</p>
4.	Review PE Curriculum to make PE accessible to all	<p>Gather information on accessible PE and Disability Sports.</p> <p>Invite disabled sports people in whenever possible.</p> <p>Review PE curriculum to include disability sports where appropriate.</p> <p>Seek advice from PE specialists regarding disabled</p>	<p>PE Co-ordinator / SENCo</p> <p>GDFT PE Director</p> <p>PE Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Spring 2017</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>2016/17</p> <p>By Need</p>

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
		children.		
5.	. Raise awareness of disability equality issues and review all curriculum areas to include disability issues.	<p>Ensure a range of disabilities are represented in curriculum resources, displays etc.</p> <p>Ensure disability issues are discussed with the children across the curriculum and in assemblies with specific reference to Woodvale</p> <p>Promote awareness of disabled achievement and participation in the community e.g. Para Olympics. Seeking opportunities to get people in and/or raise awareness through international/national media.</p>	PE Co-ordinator SENCo	<p>Spring 2017</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>

## Written Information

No	Issue	Action	Responsible Person	Completion date
1.	Review information to parents / carers to ensure it is accessible.	<p>. Ensure academy questionnaire includes questions about access to school information.</p> <p>Ask parents / carers about access needs when child is admitted to school, including EAL.</p> <p>Proof Read all letters home to check for Plain English.</p> <p>Produce newsletter in alternative formats to meet need. Inform parents that other formats are available.</p> <p>Statement on website about accessibility options.</p>	<p>Principal</p>   <p>Academy Administrator</p>  <p>Principal/Admin</p>	<p>April 2017</p>  <p>On going</p>  <p>On going</p>  <p>On going</p>
2.	Inclusive discussion of access to information in all parent consultations.	Ask parents / carers and children about access to information and preferred formats in all parent consultations.	Teachers Senco	On going
3.	Ensure academy information materials are accessible.	<p>Seek advice making information accessible.</p> <p>Ensure brochure is in plain English etc. and ensure it explicitly welcomes disabled children and those with SEN.</p> <p>Provide alternative formats for access where needed.</p> <p>Posters for Support in place around academy (Access Support, Family Support, Pupils Support)</p>	Principal	<p>On going</p>  <p>Annually</p>

