



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust

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Forest Lodge Academy Accessibility Plan

Policy/Procedure management log

Document name	Accessibility Plan
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1. Aims

Schools are required under the [Equality Act 2010](#) to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

Our academy aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

At Forest Lodge Academy we aim to meet the obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) by having due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- Foster good relations across all characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

As set out in the DfE guidance on the Equality Act, the academy aims to advance equality of opportunity by:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people that are connected to a particular characteristic they have (e.g. pupils with disabilities, or gay pupils who are being subjected to homophobic bullying)
- Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic (e.g. enabling Muslim pupils to pray at prescribed times)
- Encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities (e.g. encouraging all pupils to be involved in the full range of academy societies)

At Forest Lodge Academy we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the academy feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

The achievement of pupils will be monitored by race, gender and disability and we will use this data to support pupils, raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality, challenging bullying and stereotypes and creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Forest Lodge Academy we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our academy is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan.

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

This accessibility plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives. We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this accessibility plan, including pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (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 and under t](#)he Equality Act 2010, 'long-term' means something which has lasted or will last for a year or more or for the rest of the affected person's life and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting visual impairments which cannot be treated with visual aids, such as by wearing spectacles or contact lenses or hearing, severe disfigurement and long-term health conditions such as ASD, ADHD, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy. Cancer, HIV and multiple sclerosis are considered to meet the definition at the point of diagnosis, irrespective of the level of impairment.

Schools are required 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 can include, for example, altering processes or requirements or the provision of an auxiliary aid.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association

3. Action plan

This action plan sets out the aims of our accessibility plan in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

The information set out in the column of 'current good practice' are examples to guide your own analysis of your current practice. They are not a thorough representation of good practice, and should be adapted to suit your school's context.

Aim	Current good practice <i>Include established practice and practice under development</i>	Objectives <i>State short, medium and long-term objectives</i>	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by	Success criteria
Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability	<p>Our school offers an adapted curriculum for pupils.</p> <p>We use resources tailored to the needs of pupils who require support to access the curriculum.</p> <p>Curriculum resources include examples of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Curriculum progress is tracked for all pupils, including those with a disability.</p> <p>Targets are set effectively and are appropriate for pupils with additional needs.</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>To liaise with Nursery providers to review admissions before the start of academic year</p>	To identify pupils who may need additional provision	Early Years Teachers/SENCO	Sept/Oct 2023	<p>Appropriate procedures/resources are in place.</p> <p>Early intervention targeted where needed.</p>
		To review policies to ensure they include inclusive and reflective practice	To monitor, evaluate and review current statutory policies	Headteacher & DHT SLT SENCO	Ongoing	Policies reviewed to ensure curriculum meets the needs of all pupils

	The curriculum is reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.	To establish close liaison with parents	To promote engagement, collaboration and participation with parents/carers and school	Headteacher, SLT and Parental Eng Lead	Ongoing	Engagement and involvement
		To pupils are in receipt of a broad and balanced curriculum.	To review curriculum, resources, training of teachers and support staff	Headteacher, SLT and Curriculum Team PP Lead	Ongoing AUG INSET	Plans & Packs in place, To respond to curriculum evaluation and needs of pupils and act accordingly. To seek advice and support from specialist teachers.
		<u>Medium Term</u> To review SEN provision and attainment of pupils	Analyse Data on termly basis. Attend Home school plan meetings.	SENCo	Termly	Termly report indicate progress

		<p>To promote the involvement of disabled students in school life</p> <p><u>Long Term</u></p> <p>Review targets and deliver findings to governing body</p>	<p>To provide resources necessary such as wheelchair access, software for visually impaired, alternative communication strategies.</p> <p>Evaluate accessibility plan. Modify/adapt accordingly</p>	<p>SENCo/Head teacher</p> <p>Headteacher/Governing Body</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Variety of planned activities that reflect the needs of pupils</p>
<p>Improve and maintain access to the physical environment</p>	<p>The environment is adapted to the needs of pupils as required.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corridor width • Disabled parking bays • Disabled toilets and changing facilities • Library shelves at wheelchair-accessible height • Door entry system • Sensory areas 	<p><u>Short term</u></p> <p>Provide accessible signage throughout school.</p> <p>Review Library provision to ensure a balance of books at accessible height.</p> <p><u>Longer Term</u></p> <p>Fencing erected around patched wood area, with a gate for safeguarding.</p>	<p>Identify key areas and design signage.</p> <p>Balance of all books to be available at accessible height.</p>	<p>HT & DHT Site Manager</p> <p>Library Lead</p> <p>HT & DHT Site Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Accessible provision</p> <p>Secure but accessible site established</p>

Improve the delivery of information to pupils with a disability	<p>Our school uses a range of communication methods to ensure information is accessible. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal signage • Large print resources • Pictorial or symbolic representations (PECS) 	<p>To ensure that all parents and other members of the school community can access necessary information.</p> <p>To ensure that parents who are unable to attend school because of a disability can access all events when required.</p> <p>Internal signage to include visual representations</p> <p>Modified resources to be accessed where possible.</p> <p>Pictorial resources used for EYFS and targeted SEND pupils.</p> <p>Makaton signing taught to key staff</p>	<p>Written information will be provided in different formats as necessary.</p> <p>Ensure events are held at different times so more parents can attend and that access for all is granted.</p> <p>System in place .</p> <p>Signage taught where appropriate</p>	<p>Teachers</p> <p>Senior Leaders</p> <p>Office Staff</p>		
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4. Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every **3** years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

It will be approved by The Academy Governing Body

5. Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Health and safety policy
- Equality information and objectives (public sector equality duty) statement for publication
- Special educational needs (SEN) information report
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- RESPECT Charter
- PREVENT statement

Appendix 1: Accessibility audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	2			
Corridor access				
Lifts	1			
Parking bays	46			
Entrances	1 main entrance accessible 2 Hall access both accessible			
Ramps	Not needed due to flat access and lift access			
Toilets	Accessible toilet near main entrance and upstairs.			
Reception area	Accessible			
Internal signage				

Emergency escape routes	Accessible			
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Appendix 2: Accessibility plan checklist

This checklist is based on the [DfE's advice on the Equality Act 2010](#).

WHAT TO COVER	TIPS
<input type="checkbox"/> Your accessibility plan must set out how your academy aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum • Improve its physical environment to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services provided • Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils 	<p>An audit could help you to identify potential barriers to access and what you could do about them. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all the shelves in the library accessible to all? • Is there adequate lighting in all areas? • Is information provided in large print, Braille, etc.? • Do the curriculum and resources include examples of people with disabilities?
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy introduction	<p>What is the purpose of the policy? What legislation does it comply with? How does it help your academy meet its aims and values?</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Details of how you will make the academy's curriculum, physical environment and information more accessible for people with disabilities	<p>This section of the policy could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets • The strategies you will employ to meet these targets • Timescales • Who is responsible for particular targets/strategies • Success criteria

<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring and evaluating the plan	When was the plan approved? When will it be reviewed? By whom?
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