



## **Accessibility Policy**

**Lead Governor: H&S Lead.**

**Senior Leadership Team Link: Operations Manager**

**Next Review Due: October 2027**

**Ratified by Governors: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Introduction**

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Schedule 10, Paragraph 3 and the Disability Discrimination (prescribed Times and Periods for Accessibility Strategies and Plans for Schools) (England) Regulations, 2005.

### **Definition of Disability**

Disability is defined by the Equality Act 2010

You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

### **Key Objective**

To reduce and eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum or to full participation in the School community by students or prospective students with a disability.

### **Background**

Oakmoor School acknowledges its duty towards students, staff, parents, Local Governing Body and members of the wider community who have a disability. Where students or prospective students are concerned the School acknowledges its non-discrimination and planning duty under the Equality Act 2010. In recognising its duties and responsibilities The School;

- Sees extra-curricular activities as a central part of its philosophy.
- The School asks parents to complete the Registration Form and to disclose whether their child has a disability, special educational need or medical condition, to ensure it is aware of the student's needs.
- In assessing any student or prospective student the School may take such advice and require an assessment as it deems appropriate. Subject to this, the School will be sensitive to any issues of confidentiality.
- Where it is practicable to make reasonable adjustments based upon the information given and advice received, to enable a prospective student to take up a place at the School and provided the student satisfies the admissions criteria outlined above, the School is committed to providing those reasonable adjustments.

### **Grounds**

The School's layout and facilities:

The School consists of four purpose built accessible buildings. Two buildings (North and South) have two floors with access to two lifts in each building and is accessible to wheelchair users. Lavatories for disabled users are on all floors with additional ambulant toilets within each main toilet area. Two further buildings (East and West) are single story with accessible lavatories.

The West Building is a separate sports hall with dedicated disabled changing or combined disabled changing and showering facilities, two games fields with the furthest being about approximately 500 yards away from the main building. The areas have access straight from the pavements and the building can be accessed from the main courtyard by a concrete slope path. There is a hard court area along with a fully floodlit Astro turf pitch adjacent.

Oakmoor School has been purpose built to meet the latest Disability Discrimination Act standard. Each teaching area has at least one height adjustable desk and/or adjustable work area (Food Technology and Design Technology). In exceptional cases we recognise additional temporary aids may need to be put in place.

Wherever practicable, in line with the Disability Policy the School will make reasonable adjustments to the timetable to allow children/staff with restricted mobility to attend accessible parts of the School grounds.

### **Accessibility Plan**

The School will review this plan on 3 year basis to monitor and evaluate:

- The effectiveness of action taken in the previous years.
- Relevant targets for the next School year.
- Responses to any further legislative changes.

The School will make a log of all reasonable adjustments and it will be available to interested parties.

### **Increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum**

As budgets allow:

1. The School will develop a unified SEN and Disability policy throughout all its sections, to ensure: a) Student documents can be printed in large print on request.  
b) There is full disclosure of relevant information between all Schools at student transfer.  
c) Staff monitoring Learning Support share best practice.
2. Where physical access to the site is difficult for a prospective student/staff/visitor, the School recognises the need to be proactive in enabling such access. Accordingly students/staff/visitors with relevant disabilities will, where practicable, be:
  - a. Placed in ground floor classrooms that are most convenient for physical access.
  - b. Given priority in the writing of the timetable with regard to accessible rooms and set allocations.

### **Improving the physical environment of the school**

As budgets allow:

1. The School will establish areas where improvements can be made and a prioritised list will be drawn up.
2. The School will bi annually undertake a fire safety risk assessment by a competent person and update the fire evacuation plan annually or before if required.
3. All conversions to existing areas of the School will be considered with regard to disabled access, and every reasonable effort made to improve access within the scope of the work.
4. Every reasonable effort will be made to purchase equipment that meets the needs of disabled students/staff/visitors in a better way than the equipment which needs to be replaced.
5. An acoustic level of between 50 – 70 decibels will be maintained wherever possible in all classrooms.

### **Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils**

As budgets allow:

1. The School will arrange for documents to be provided to prospective parents who have a disability, in forms that meet the need, if so requested and it is reasonable to do so.
2. All School documents will be available in large print format on request. This policy must be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy, "Keeping Children Safe in education July 2015" publication.
3. The School will continue to provide INSET for all teachers in order to support them in better communication with students with SEN or disabilities.

***Provision of information***

The School will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the Local Authority and the Trust, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

**Linked Policies**

This plan will contribute to the review and revision of related School policies, eg.

- School strategic plan
- SEN policy
- equal opportunities policy
- curriculum policy
- teaching and learning policy

**RATIFICATION DATE AND CHAIR'S SIGNATURE**

Ratified/Signature:

Print Name:

Date: