

Accessible Schools Policy (2018)

To be reviewed Autumn Term 2020



1. Rationale & Aim

The Governors at Robert Bloomfield Academy continually review the accessibility of the school site to ensure ease of access for all our disabled pupils and staff as well as our day to day procedures and policies to ensure equal access for all. Consequently the school has successfully catered for pupils and staff with a variety of disabilities and additional needs over the last few years - including visually impaired and physically handicapped children and adults. We are constantly looking for ways to ensure our school is as fully accessible as possible for all our pupils, staff, parents and the local community.

2. Policy

The Governors have developed the best of inclusive practice and have modified buildings and access and built a number of disabled toilets as well as a specific changing room. From September 2002, the DfES outlawed all discrimination based on pupil access. The Academy's Report to parents firmly states our commitment to preparing accessibility strategies. The Academy's plan came into place in April 2003 and is updated yearly. It will ensure our buildings will be accessible and that parents have a right to complain against our accessibility strategies.

Our plan will

- Ensure all visitors, community users, parents and staff have access to disabled toilet facilities.
- Provide disabled access, seating and toilet for the refurbished drama block.
- Provide use of laptop provision for pupils at risk of underachievement, and ensure full computer access to pupils regardless of socio economic factors.
- Provide specific car parking for disabled visitors and staff
- Provide disabled toilets in the main corridor, medical bay, LRC and year 5 block
- Ensure our school dress code caters for all and is non-discriminatory

Practice

- Site Manager and Vice Principal will complete the Accessibility checklist (DfES Circular 0462/2002). This will be aimed at both school and community provision.
- The Site Manager and Vice Principal will keep the Audit and check it at regular annual intervals (each July, with consideration for new intakes).
- Governors will examine the accessibility audit when undertaking Health and Safety checks (as part of the Site Management Group).
- The accessibility audit will be referred to in future Governors' Site Meetings.
- Robert Bloomfield Academy will follow the guidelines within the Access Plan and **attempt** to follow the timescale.
- Any complaints will be heard in accordance with our current complaints procedure.
- The SENCo will notify the Vice Principal of any new pupils or new circumstances which may require any necessary action or update of our strategies and plan.

Access Plan 2018-2020

Redevelopment of medical centre has created as a triage and medical bay for all pupils. Additional disabled toilets were installed as part of the new year 5 block and new LRC/Reception Increased disabled parking bays have been installed at the front of school. The school has conducted a full site audit alongside the Visual Impaired team from CBC, this highlighted several key amendments that needed to be completed on site. These have all been full addressed by the premises team.

	TARGETS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOME	TIMESCALE	GOALS
Short Term	Use of laptop/Chromebook/iPad provision for pupils at risk of underachievement, and ensure full computer access to pupils regardless of socio economic factors.	School Inclusion policy. Use of specialist schools' funding.	Improved standards and levels of literacy and numeracy.	10 in circulation by Summer 2020.	Improved access to ICT for specific groups of pupils.
	Rooms for counselling/confidential support meetings required urgently.	School Inclusion policy.	Improved motivation/engagement and achievement for pupils with emotional/behavioural issues.	Completed Summer 2017.	Improved facilities for meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils.
	Site to be fully visually impaired compliant.	CBC VI site audit.	Key hazards and risks in school identified and action points addressed.	Completed Summer 2018.	
	Pupil uniform – to ensure the uniform of the academy has a unisex option for all pupils and is non-discriminatory.	School Inclusion Policy.	Boys and girls are allowed to wear tailored shorts as part of the school uniform code.	Summer 2018.	
Medium Term	Designated rooms for Soundwrite intervention (SW).	School Inclusion Policy.	Improved standard across all curriculum areas for pupils with Speech & Language difficulties.	The school has 2 designated rooms for SW intervention Sept 2019.	
	Designated rooms for Year 7 Catch up funding and maths intervention.	School Inclusion Policy.	Accelerated progress of identified Y7 pupils. Improved standards for across all curriculum areas for pupils who underperform in Maths.		
	Facilities for supporting pupils with emotional/behavioural difficulties – soft room.	Use of specialist schools' funding (CIF).	Area of school designated as quiet zone with soft furnishings.	Completed Autumn 2018 Apps to be purchased and installed on iPads by Autumn 2018	

	Equipment to support pupils with communication difficulties – laptops with specialist voice recognition software.	School Inclusion Policy.	Pupils to have access to voice recognition apps to aid writing/demonstrate better understanding.		
Longer Term	Physio/treatment room, physio equipment to support needs of pupils with physical difficulties.	School Inclusion policy.	Improved support for pupils with physical difficulties and conditions (such as diabetes) where private space for procedures are required.	Summer 2019.	Improved facilities for meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils.
	Therapy room – including art equipment, music equipment, sport equipment etc.	Use of specialist schools' funding (SCA/CIF).	Improved motivation/engagement and achievement for pupils with emotional/behavioural issues.	Summer 2020.	Improved facilities for meeting the needs of vulnerable pupils.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be regularly monitored by the Vice Principal.

4. Implementation and Review

This policy will be circulated to all academy staff and published on the academy website for parent/carer information. The policy will be reviewed two yearly.

5. Author and Date

Author: Steve Fox (Vice Principal) Approved by Site Management Committee
Date: October 2018