



Accessibility Policy

Date Reviewed:	June 2023
Date approved by Governors:	June 2023
Date for Review:	June 2026

Introduction

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Board of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equalities act:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can **participate in the school curriculum**.
 - Improving the **environment** of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.
 - Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of **information**, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.
1. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents/carers, 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.
 2. Southall School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff, and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
 - Improving access to the **physical environment** of the school, making reasonable adjustments, and adding specialist facilities, as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
 - 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; (If a school fails to do this, they are in breach of the DDA). This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of Southall School as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist **aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
 - Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents/carers, and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time limit.

Below are Action Plans relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.

We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

Accessibility Plan

Southall School is a special school for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) designated as having Moderate Learning Difficulties. In consideration of the statement above and the ethos of Southall School, each pupil in the school has a personal learning program that caters for their needs regardless of whether he/she falls into the official definition of disabled.

1a. The schools' systems are set up to ensure access to every educational opportunity for all pupils regardless of the symptoms of their need.

- To enable all our pupils to gain full access to all education, enrichment, and enhancement activities we have to date.
 - Modified our curriculum to deliver lessons to raise self-esteem, manage anger, catch up on previously missed educational opportunity, drugs and substance misuse education, relevant citizenship.
 - Made building adjustments to allow independent access for pupils with physical difficulties.
 - Provided the school council or form representatives with the opportunity to make comments on the building's suitability. The outcomes of these are reported back to the group.

1b. The history of the school shows that pupils previously referred to the school with disabilities falling outside those for which the school was designed, have been hearing and visual impairment. Physical disabilities have been limited although we are seeing an increasing number of pupils falling into this category.

The school responds to these disabilities as they are referred, without additional major resourcing and modification, through personal learning programs, appropriate modification of text and additional physical skills practices.

The new build part of school has a flat entrance and disabled toilets for pupils and staff. The school is situated entirely on ground level.

All the new parts of the school can accommodate wheelchair access as could the old school with little inexpensive modification.

There is a facility in the school to recharge electric wheelchairs.

1c. To ensure ongoing support and facilities for disabled pupils we will:

Improve facilities for visually-impaired and hearing-impaired pupils by clearly marking equipment and access routes with appropriate markings, working with advice and guidance from Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Sensory Inclusion Service – Telford.

Introduce specialist equipment, as required, for individual pupils in conjunction with the Local Authority and the Access Funding Panel.

Outcomes for disabled pupils

The school currently monitors behavioural analysis, including attendance, fixed term exclusions, permanent exclusions and detentions for whole school gender and looked after children (LAC). Mechanisms are in place to extend this monitoring to include other sub-groups as they arise.

No pupil is currently excluded from any extra-curricular activities on the grounds of any current sub-group on roll at the school.

Action Plans

Training for Governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter - Ongoing.

School Environmental Assessment undertaken by Guide Dogs for the Blind in relation to visually impaired pupils – Necessary adjustments are ongoing.

The new building provisionally planned for Southall School will provide more classroom space, hygiene rooms, etc. To enable an increase in PAN to 200. - Ongoing – dates to be confirmed.