

Author	Kelsey Clark-Davies	Target group	All employees, consultants and volunteers
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Abbey Woods Academy Accessibility Plan

Date: September 2024

Vision

Anthem Schools Trust is committed to working collaboratively to create ambitious and successful schools where every child thrives, and with teaching and learning being at the heart of everything we do. We understand that ensuring every child accesses Inclusive High Quality First Teaching is fundamental to good outcomes for our students. One of our mottos within the Anthem Schools Trust is ***“Every Student, Every Lesson, All the time.”***



Purpose

This Accessibility Plan is designed to ensure that **[insert name of school]** complies with equality and disability legislation and best practice. The school is committed to providing an environment which respects and values all students, staff, parents/carers and visitors and endeavours to make special efforts to ensure that all groups prosper and can fully access the Inclusive High Quality First Teaching in lessons, and all aspects of the school day, including those with disabilities and special educational needs.

Key Objectives of the Accessibility Plan:

- to increase the extent to which all students, including those with SEND, can participate in the school curriculum
- to improve the physical environment of Abbey Woods Academy to increase the extent to which students, staff and visitors with a disability can access provision within the school
- to improve communication to students and parents/carers.

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 and trusts on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on their ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools and academy trusts are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for students with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a student with a disability faces in comparison with students without disabilities. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Duties on the school

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 students with disabilities can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable students with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to students with disabilities

The Accessibility Plan needs to be reviewed by the school every three years and it must be published in an easily accessible location such as the school's website. It is also available in large print or other accessible formats if required.

Reasonable adjustment duty

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments to allow students and adults with disabilities to access the educational provision and related services at the school. This is clearly set out in the guidance: The Equality Act (2010) and Schools (Sections 4.20-4.39).

[Equality Act Advice Final.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

We plan, over time, to increase progressively the accessibility of the school to students and staff with disabilities.

Planning duties

This section outlines the main activities which Abbey Woods Academy undertakes, and is planning to undertake, to achieve the key objectives which will be stated within our Accessibility Plan.

1) Increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum.

We see this as covering not only teaching and learning but also the wider curriculum such as school clubs, leisure, sport and cultural activities and school visits.

- Year on year planning for a more inclusive curriculum
- Changes to teaching and learning arrangements
- Classroom organisation
- Timetabling
- Deployment of auxiliary aids and personnel
- Information and training for staff.

2) Improving the physical environment of the school

We see this as attempting to 'increase the extent to which all students, especially those with SEND, are able to take advantage of education and associated services'.

- Visual improvement
- Signs
- Improvements in the acoustic environment
- Furniture
- Disabled toilets/showers
- Ramps
- Disabled parking spaces
- Steps
- External hard surfaces
- Fire alarm procedures
- Lighting
- Room access

The school will take account of the needs of students and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of site and premises, such as improved lighting, acoustic treatment, colour schemes and more accessible facilities and fittings.

3) Provision of Information

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

- ▪ Modified examination papers
- ▪ Modified resource and support material
- ▪ ICT facilities

Communication with parents and carers

In order to best meet the needs of a student with a disability, our schools aim to work systemically with parents and carers. We acknowledge that the better we know and understand our children, the better we are able to meet their needs and we therefore highly value partnership working with families. We support our parents and carers to work closely with the school to provide full information about any disabilities, special educational need or other relevant information about their child(ren).

Accessibility Audit

At Appendix 1 is an accessibility audit template relating to the above three planning duty areas which our school completes in order to inform our Accessibility Plan.

Accessibility Plans

At Appendix 2 is an action plan template relating to the above three planning duty areas which has been created as a result of the audit. Having identified the barriers to access we then identified strategies to eliminate the barriers. For each issue identified in the audit we:

- converted it into a target
- outlined any actions required
- identified whether the actions will be short, medium or long-term priorities
- identified the source of funding

The school is committed to delivering the accessibility plans within a reasonable time and in ways which are determined after taking account of the students' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents/carers.

Complaints

If you wish to make a complaint regarding any aspect of this plan, please refer to the school's Concerns and Complaints Policy.

Review

During the period to which this plan relates, the school will keep the plan under review and will make revisions and updates as necessary.

The Director of Education will monitor the school's compliance with the plan on an annual basis. The Trust will review the template plan every three years.

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 Education Needs (SEN) Information Report
- SEND Policy
- Administration of Medicines and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Appendix 1: Accessibility Audit

Questions to ask	Evidence of current good practice	Issues identified / Barrier to access	What sort of issue / barrier is it? <i>e.g. training need, policy change, documentation, physical environment, communication, resources required</i>	Transfer to the accessibility plan?
[REDACTED]				
1.1 Is everyone made to feel welcome, including those with Special Educational Needs and / or disabilities?	Yes – no issues			
1.2 Are there high expectations of all students and staff?	Yes – no issues			
1.3 Do staff, Anthem Community Councils and students share and promote a philosophy of inclusion?	Yes – no issues			
1.4 Are students equally valued?	Yes – no issues			
1.5 Do staff seek to remove all barriers to learning and participation?	Yes – no issues			
1.6 Are lessons made accessible to all students?	Yes – no issues			

1.7) Are support staff used effectively to positively impact on student outcomes?	Yes – no issues			
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Questions to ask	Evidence of current good practice	Issues identified / Barrier to access	What sort of issue / barrier is it? <i>e.g. training need, policy change, documentation, physical environment, communication, resources required</i>	Transfer to the accessibility plan?
2. Staff training				
2.1 Do you ensure that staff are familiar with technology and practices developed to assist people with disabilities?	Yes – no issues			
2.2 Do you ensure that teachers and teaching assistants have the necessary training to teach and support students with a disability?	Yes – no issues			
2.3 Are your staff aware of how classrooms should be optimally organised for students with a disability?	Yes – no issues			
2.4 Have staff received training in ensuring that lessons are responsive to the diverse nature of student needs and abilities?	Yes – no issues			

Questions to ask	Evidence of current good practice	Issues identified / Barrier to access	What sort of issue / barrier is it? <i>e.g. training need, policy change, documentation, physical environment, communication, resources required</i>	Transfer to the accessibility plan?
3. Provision of written information				
3.1 What provisions are made for making information available to all people who may need access to goods, services and facilities?	Yes – no issues			
3.2 Do you provide access to computer technology appropriate for students and adults with disabilities?	Yes – no issues			
3.3 Do you provide access to internet resources appropriate for students and adults with disabilities?	Yes – no issues			
3.4 Do you ensure that information is presented to groups in a way which is user-friendly for students and adults with visual disabilities e.g. by reading aloud, overhead projections and describing diagrams?	Yes – no issues			
3.5 Do you have the facilities to produce written information in a variety of font sizes?	Yes – no issues			
3.6 Do you make use of RNIB guidelines formats? (RNIB guidelines may be obtained from www.rnib.org.uk)	No current issues			

Questions to ask	Evidence of current good practice	Issues identified / Barrier to access	What sort of issue is it? <i>e.g. training, policy, documentation, physical environment, communication</i>	Transfer to the accessibility plan?
4. The physical environment <i>Consider all the areas to which students should have access, including all academic, sporting, play, or social facilities. These would include classrooms, the assembly hall, canteen, library, gymnasium and outdoor sporting facilities, playground and common rooms.</i>				
4.1 Are there any physical structures such as doorways, steps and stairs which may act as barriers for students and adults who use wheelchairs?	Some doorways are narrow, some classrooms have steps which may act as a barrier for pupils and adults who use wheelchairs		Physical environment	Yes
4.2 Are toilet facilities and showers accessible to wheelchair users?	1 disabled access toilet in school		No showering facilities in school	
4.3 Are there safe pathways of travel around the school site and parking arrangements?	The school is all on one level. There is a disabled parking bay		Some paths are uneven	
4.4 Is there any decor which may be confusing or disorientating for students and adults with a disability with a visual impairment, for example floors and walls which are the same colour?	No issues			
4.5 Are there any signs which may be confusing or inadequate, for example at the wrong height to be seen by wheelchair users or with little contrast between lettering and	No issues			

background, or with font which is too small to be easily visible?				
4.6 Is there accessible storage to enable students and adults with a disability to access aids and equipment?	Yes – no issues			
4.7 Are there arrangements which might prevent the inclusion of people with disabilities that affect their hearing – including rooms with poor acoustics and noisy equipment?	Yes – physical limitations of the school building		All of the classrooms have poor acoustics due to the amount of glass. Blow heaters are noisy.	
4.8 Are there non-visual guides to assist people to use buildings including changes in surfacing materials, lifts with tactile buttons etc?	Some		Changes to be made if required	
4.9 Do emergency and evacuation systems include alarms with both visual and auditory components?	No		Changes to be made if required	

Appendix 2: Accessibility Plan template

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

Aim: Increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability	
Current Good Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school offers a differentiated curriculum for all students • We use resources tailored to the needs of students who require support to access the curriculum • Curriculum resources include examples of people with disabilities • Curriculum progress is tracked for all students, including those with a disability • Targets are set effectively and are appropriate for students with additional needs • The curriculum is reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of all students
Objectives	To ensure we continue to provide an appropriate curriculum for any children we have with disabilities
Actions to be taken	<p>Ongoing monitoring of the inclusion file and curriculum</p> <p>Clicker training for teachers and TAs</p> <p>Manual handling training</p> <p>Hoist training</p> <p>Physiotherapy training</p> <p>Occupational therapy training (standing frame and exercises)</p> <p>Continue to follow advice from the Physical Disability Team for individual pupils</p>
Person responsible	HT, DHT, SENDCo/Inclusion Lead
Date to complete actions by	Ongoing
Success criteria	All children are able to access the curriculum and reach the targets set for them.

Aim: Improve and maintain access to the physical environment	
Current Good Practice	<p>The environment is adapted to the needs of students as required. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramps • Corridor width • Disabled parking bays

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled toilets and changing facilities • Book shelves at wheelchair-accessible height • Provision of work stations
Objectives	To ensure that we welcome any children with disabilities and work with families to ensure the environment is appropriate to their needs
Actions to be taken	As and when required
Person responsible	HT, DHT, SENDCo/Inclusion Lead
Date to complete actions by	Ongoing
Success criteria	Physical environment meets the needs of any children as and when required.

Aim: Improve the delivery of information to students with a disability	
Current Good Practice	<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 • Makaton • Pictorial or symbolic representations
Objectives	To ensure that any child with a disability has access to information
Actions to be taken	As and when required
Person responsible	HT, DHT, SENDCo/Inclusion Lead
Date to complete actions by	Ongoing
Success criteria	Information is available to all children regardless of disability.