

School Accessibility Plan 2017 - 2020

Introduction

At Paxton Academy Sports and Science we are committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes towards disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. Where at all possible, we will take reasonable steps to ensure that stakeholders are not placed at a substantial disadvantage due to disability. The school aims to work closely with disabled pupils, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove or minimise any potential barriers to learning.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in schedule 10, paragraph 3, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010 and The Special Education Needs and Disability Regulations 2014. LAC is accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress over a prescribed period of time.

Paxton Academy plans, over time, to ensure continuing and improved accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the school.

Definition of Disability

“A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. *The Equality Act 2010*

The Accessibility Plan will address:

- Improving access to the physical environment of the school, adding further specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education, as well as changes to the physical environment which will increase access for staff, parents/carers and visitors to the school
- Increasing access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as prepared for life as every other pupil. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such 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
- Improving and making reasonable adjustments to the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include hand-outs, timetables, text books and sources of information about the school and school events. This information should be made available in preferred formats within a reasonable time frame

Our Accessibility Plan is published on our school website and copies will be made available to parents/carers on request.

Contextual Information

Paxton Academy is located in a 2-story temporary building. Currently there is no disabled access to the upper floor and the ground floor area of the reception class.

The new site at London Road will be fully accessible.

This Accessibility Plan covers a three year period and will be updated annually as necessary.

Current Range of Known Disabilities

Paxton Academy has pupils with a range of disabilities including visual impairment, hearing impairment, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, moderate and specific learning difficulties and other medical and physical difficulties. When children enter school with specific disabilities, the school liaises with relevant external professionals, for example, Local Authority officers, the child's current teacher, School Nurse, Occupational Therapists and also with parents/carers to ensure a smooth transition and that all reasonable adjustments that can be made are made.

Policy Sign off – School Accessibility Plan

	Reviewer	Approver	Date
Reviewer / approver	Jamie Stevenson/ Monika McIvor	LAC	Autumn 2019
Next Review			Autumn 2020

Improving Curriculum Access at Paxton Academy Sports and Science

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Responsibility	Timescale	Achievement
Audit of pupil needs	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability. Consider daily living requirements, relationships and aspirations	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life-preparation learning. The use of external professional specialists has been made available	SENCo	Ongoing with regular meetings if appropriate Autumn 2020	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
Increase confidence of staff in making appropriate changes to the curriculum	Audit/be aware of staff training needs on curriculum access. Assign particular CPD training where necessary	All teachers are able to more fully meet the requirements of disabled children with regards to accessing the curriculum	SENCo	Ongoing Autumn 2020	Greater rates of academic progress and higher achievement levels
Ensure all relevant staff are aware of disabled children's curriculum access – this includes children with ASD	Set up a system of individual access plans for disabled pupils when required. Information sharing with all agencies involved with the child	All relevant staff are aware of individual child's needs	SENCo	Ongoing Autumn 2020	Improved emotional well-being. Greater rates of academic progress and higher achievement levels
Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture to support the learning process on an individual class basis. Plan the organisation of resources and visual aids considering individual needs	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments. Teachers are confident all the children are able to access resources and the curriculum	Senior Leadership Team SENCo	Ongoing Individual workstations to be set up for identified pupils Autumn 2020	Increase in access to the curriculum and greater confidence and independence
Use of IT to support learning	Ensure software and hardware options are examined. Ensure software is installed where needed	Individual disabled pupils regularly use appropriate IT for their needs in the classroom and wider school	To be appointed.	To be developed after move to the permanent site.	Increase in access to the curriculum
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure, where reasonable, the participation of all pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation. Apply for additional funding to cover access costs for children with additional needs where appropriate.	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with current and future legislative requirements. Risk assessments in place.	Senior Leadership Team / teaching staff/ SENCO	Autumn 2020	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
Ensure PE curriculum is accessible to all pupils	Gather information on accessible PE and disability sports.	All pupils will have access to sport and have the opportunity to excel	Currently delivered by external sports company,	When appropriate	Higher levels of overall fitness, confidence, co-operation and emotional

	Seek disabled sports people to visit the school		contract to be reviewed, roles to be re-defined		well-being
Volunteers are aware of disability needs of particular pupils	Volunteers meet with the Principal/Assistant Principal / class teacher before commencing work with a particular pupil. Strategies and needs are discussed	All volunteers aware of particular needs of children	Senior Leadership Team/ class teacher	Area to be developed Autumn 2020	Successful partnership with volunteers, for example in reading – progress made by individual children

Improving the Delivery of Written Information at Paxton Academy Sports and Science

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Responsibility	Timescale	Achievement
To make available school brochures, letters and other information for parents/carers in alternative formats when requested	Review all current publications and promote the availability of different formats. The school website will be accessible for a person with visual impairment	All school information available for all who request it	Senior Leadership Team / Business Support Staff	Autumn 2020 and/or when requested	Delivery of school information to parents/carers and the local community improved
To make written information to visually impaired pupils available in different formats i.e. large print, symbols, different colours, braille	The school will make itself aware of services available for converting written information into alternative formats. Class teachers will adapt formats as necessary	Pupils will be able to access written information in different formats	Teaching staff / SENCo	Autumn 2020 and/or when requested	Delivery of information to visually impaired pupils is improved
Annual review information to be as accessible as possible for child, parent/carer and other professionals involved	Adapt all paperwork for reviews to reflect the needs of the child and/or parents/carers	Pupils and parents/carers will have an enhanced understanding of review proceedings, targets and outcomes	SENCo	Autumn 2020 and/or when requested	More effective and purposeful reviews with improved communication and understanding

Improving Access to the Physical Environment of Paxton Academy

Item	Activity	Timescale
Signage	Appropriate signs for the visually-impaired	Currently in place. To be review at the new site
Door handles	Ensure door handles contrast in colour with main body of door	In place. To be review at the new site
Step edges	Yellow strip on all step edges	By Summer 2020
Fire alarm	Audio-visual fire alarm fitted throughout school – flashing light	In place
Evacuation routes	Ensure all disabled pupils can be evacuated safely. Put in place a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) for all pupils with difficulties	Currently not in place. No disabled pupils on roll. To be review at the new site
Key pads	Check height of key pads for wheelchair users Key pad at wheelchair user height at the front of the school / main office area	Currently not in place to ensure security of the site. To be review at the new site
Inclusive discussion regarding access to all areas of the school	Invite comments and suggestions specifically from parents/ carers with disabilities when their child joins the school regarding their own needs in accessing the school premises. Invite feedback from visitors to the school	To be added to Summer 2020 to Parent Questionnaire.
Lifts	Key controlled lift installed to enable wheelchair access to the KS1 and KS2 Halls	Not applicable due to temporary nature of the site. To be review at the new site
Ramps	To install a ramp to the outdoor area from year 4 classroom.	Ramp access to all ground floor rooms, apart from reception. To be review at the new site

