

The Discovery School



Accessibility Plan 2022 - 2025

Section 1: Vision statement

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to show how The Discovery School intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils. The Discovery School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

Definition of Disability

The Disability Discrimination act (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has:

“A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”

- “Physical impairment” includes sensory impairment.
- “Mental impairment” includes learning difficulties and an impairment resulting from or consisting of a mental illness.
- “Substantial” means more than minor or trivial.
- “Long term” is defined as 12 months or more.
- This definition includes a wide range of impairments such as dyslexia, autism, speech & language impairments and attention deficit hyperactive disorder. These will only be defined as a disability if the effect on the child’s ability to carry out day to day activities is substantial and long term, as defined above.

Legal Background

Under the Equality Act 2010 all schools must have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation including the DDA. The effect of the laws is the same as in the past, meaning that ‘Schools cannot lawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation’.

This plan has been drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and in conjunction with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school and will advise other school planning documents.

This Accessibility Plan sets out objectives of our school in increasing access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas, as required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- a) Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum; which includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school, such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits;
- b) Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- c) Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled

Reviewed: September 2022

Training

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

Plan Availability:

The school makes the Accessibility Plan available in the following ways:

- A copy is posted on the school's website
- Paper copies are available from the front office

Review and Evaluation:

It is a requirement that our Accessibility Plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. The plan is valid for three years (2022-2025) and is reviewed annually.

Complaints procedures:

Please refer to the School's published Complaints Procedure.

Section a): Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum; including teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school, such as after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and school visits.

Aims and objectives: Our aims are to:

1. Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
2. SEND - Pupils with SEND will achieve exceptionally well

Objective	Action/s	Responsibility	Timeframe	Early Success Indicators and Milestones	Success Criteria
1. Increase access to the outside curriculum for pupils with a disability	<p>a) Provide ongoing training on specific learning and physical needs; particularly for new staff</p> <p>b) Ensure accessibility arrangements to the building, including outside, continue to meet current legislative requirements.</p> <p>c) Continue to work with specialists (e.g. Occupational Therapy) to ensure access to the curriculum is maximised for those children with physical disabilities.</p> <p>d) Ensure that the outside area is laid with appropriate surfacing (MUGA) and fitted with accessible play equipment to facilitate gross motor play for children with physical disabilities</p>	<p>a) SENCo</p> <p>b) School Business Manager and SENCo</p> <p>c) SENCo</p> <p>d) School Business Manager and SENCo</p> <hr/> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>SEND Governor Monitoring Pair</p>	<p>a) Autumn Term 2022 and then ongoing</p> <p>b) September 2022 and then annually</p> <p>c) Ongoing</p> <p>d) July 2024</p>	<p><u>Term 1 2022</u></p> <p>a) Audit of CPD completed</p> <p>Training booked</p> <p><u>Term 2 2022</u></p> <p>b) and c) Liaison with Occupational Therapist and recommendations planned for</p> <p><u>Term 4 2023</u></p> <p>d) Quotes received</p> <p><u>Term 6 2023</u></p> <p>d) Installation (stage 1) begins</p>	<p>Outside accessibility is improved as required</p> <p>Staff understand specific children's needs</p> <p>Pupils are provided with the specific resources to enable them to access the outside curriculum</p>

Objective	Action/s	Responsibility	Timeframe	Early Success Indicators and Milestones	Success Criteria
2. SEND - Pupils with SEND will achieve exceptionally well against individualised targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide CPD – teaching and teaching support staff b) Review provision mapping to identify interventions required and impact achieved c) Range of ongoing monitoring including triangulated monitoring against personal plans d) Regular SEND review and pupil progress meetings e) Targeted support for children with SEND f) Parent review meetings undertaken g) Teaching & learning trail over one day for SEND pupils (linked to Pupil Progress and SEND Review Meetings) 	<p>(a- g) SENCo and Assessment Lead</p> <hr/> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>SEND Governor Monitoring Pair</p>	<p>a – e) Term 1 2022 and then ongoing</p> <p>g) Term 2</p>	<p><u>Term 2 2022</u></p> <p>Children who have not made expected or accelerated progress have been identified and targeted provision for ‘catch up’ put in place</p> <p><u>Review in Term 4 2023 and Term 6 2023</u></p>	<p>All children with SEND will make outstanding progress regardless of relative starting points.</p>

Section b): Improving the environment of the School to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated activities.

Access Audit Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
General site access	Ensure that the site is fully accessible and safe for people who are disabled	Audit of site Ensure main entrance doorbell is accessible at wheelchair height	Site Manager Business Manager SENCo	Term 2 2022
Number of storeys	The Discovery School is a single-storey building throughout	None required	N/A	N/A
Corridor access	All corridors are accessible for wheelchairs and walking frames and are wide enough for manoeuvre	Ensure corridors are free from clutter	All staff	Ongoing
Parking bays	There are four disabled parking bays allocated on the school site and a free flow 'drop-off zone.	Ensure that the designated parking bays are accessible at all times Ensure that the designated parking bays are never obstructed.	Site Manager	Ongoing
Entrances	All entrances are accessible via ramps, including the pavilion buildings	Ensure that ramps are in good repair and not blocked. Ensure handrails are installed.	Site Manager	Ongoing

Access Audit Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Discovery Walk	Discovery walk has been landscaped to ensure that the space is accessible. However the ground is not currently even enough to support wheelchair access or walking frames	Liaise with KCC on securing support for wheelchair access to Discovery Walk	Business Manager	January 2023
Ramps	All entrances are accessible via ramps and supported	Ensure that surfaces are smooth and free from cracks and general wear and tear Ensure handrails are installed.	Site Manager	Ongoing
Toilets	Three accessible toilets are located in the school building	Ensure that accessible toilets are maintained to a high standard Ensure that emergency call buttons are available at ground level	Business Manager	Term 1 2022
Supply Staff	Supply teachers are met and provided with induction	Ensure there is a clear system of communication regarding SEND between class TA and supply staff	SENCo	Term 1 2022
Emergency escape routes	Labels clearly displayed throughout the School	Continue to ensure signs are maintained	Site Manager	Ongoing
Care Suite	Care suite, including a shower is located in the within the main school building	Ensure that the facilities are fully functional and safe. Ensure that regular Legionella prevention tasks are undertaken	Site Manager	Ongoing

Section c): Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

Access Audit Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Reception area	Hearing Loop and visual signage is available	<p>Ensure that visitors to the school are aware of this</p> <p>Ensure Hearing Loop is available for use in communal area e.g. hall</p>	<p>Office Staff</p> <p>Business Manager</p>	On going
Internal signage	<p>All areas throughout the school are clearly labelled with the name of the room.</p> <p>They are positioned at a height for wheelchair users to be able to access.</p>	<p>To install braille signs to ensure that those with visual impairment can find their way around the school?</p> <p>Ensure signage is accessible for the visually impaired (communication in print/braille)</p> <p>Ensure communication is available in languages other than English (where needed) e.g. Ukrainian</p>	<p>SENCo</p> <p>Office Staff</p>	Term 1 2021 and then ongoing