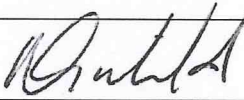




The Macclesfield Academy
Accessibility Plan
2016–19

Person responsible for the Plan:	Laura Halsall
Date Approved:	March 2017
Signed by Chair of Governors	
Date for Review:	March 2018

The Macclesfield Academy Accessibility Plan

This Accessibility Plan has been developed to comply with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010.

Context

The Macclesfield Academy opened on 1st September 2011. Our predecessor school opened in a largely rebuilt building on 1st September 2007. The new build was designed with a number of important access features:

- The building is predominantly on a single floor with a lift to the eight first-floor classrooms
- There are wider than average corridors
- Specialist classrooms in Art, Design Technology and Science have specially adapted furniture to allow working heights to be varied
- Although most of the ICT suites are on the first floor, there is one networked ICT room on the ground floor
- All other specialist teaching spaces are on the ground floor
- All classrooms are equipped with digital projectors and interactive whiteboards to maximise visibility
- There is a medical room and a hygiene suite
- There are toilets for people with disabilities on both floors
- Parking (including disabled parking) is available immediately outside the Academy entrance.

Aims of the Accessibility Plan

1. To increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the curriculum.
2. To improve the physical environment of the Academy to enable disabled students to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
3. To improve the availability of accessible information to disabled students.
4. To ensure compliance with Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010.

Accessibility Plan 2016–19

To increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the curriculum, over the next 3 years we will:

- Keep under review our arrangements for evacuating any students who are wheelchair users from the first floor in the event of a fire (currently an Evac+Chair)
- Ensure a continuous programme of training for relevant staff in use of the Evac+Chair, so as to enable students who are wheelchair users to safely use the first-floor classroom
- Ensure that the hardware and software in Room 53 (the IT-networked room on the ground floor) are adequate to allow any students who cannot access the first floor to use the full range of curriculum ICT resources
- Review the effectiveness of our digital projectors and interactive whiteboards in meeting the needs of visually impaired students and considering whether any reasonable adjustments should be made
- Review the training needs of all teaching and support staff in relation to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and include any needs identified in our training programme
- Review the programme of curriculum and extracurricular visits to make sure that as many as possible are accessible to students with disabilities
- Where students with disabilities are unable to access curriculum visits, ensure that alternative arrangements are put in place to secure the desired learning outcomes
- Continue the development of Boccia as an activity for students with disabilities within the PE curriculum.
- Continue to ensure that facilities are available for students with disabilities to change for PE.

To improve the physical environment of the Academy to enable disabled students to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services provided, over the next 3 years we will:

- Continue our rolling programme of improvements to the toilets for people with disabilities to ensure maximum space and manoeuvrability
- Continue to take advice from health professionals on the adequacy and appropriateness of the therapeutic equipment in the hygiene suite and make reasonable adjustments to these as required.

To improve the availability of accessible information to disabled students, over the next 3 years we will:

- Continue to ensure that all information on our website can be enlarged
- Review the extent to which there is a need for information to be made available in other formats (e.g. Braille or audio description) and make any reasonable adjustments that may be required.

Implementation and Monitoring

1. Co-ordination of the implementation of this plan is the responsibility of the Assistant Director (Academy Operations). She will oversee the work of, amongst others, Subject Leaders, the SENCO and the ICT team in implementing the plan.
2. The Health and Safety Committee will also review relevant sections of the plan and make recommendations to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as required.
3. The plan will be reviewed annually by the SLT and any amendments made will be reported to and approved by the Full Governing Body by 31st March each year.