



Smestow Academy

Accessibility Plan

Updated January 2024
Review January 2025

Accessibility Vision Statement

Smestow Academy's staff and governors are committed to ensuring that all pupils are offered the best possible opportunity to reach and exceed their potential, irrespective of their ability. We believe that no child is left behind and strive to make Smestow Academy one of the best schools in the country.

Context

This plan seeks to address the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) and to further the aims of our vision statement by:

Continuing to improve all aspects of the physical environment of the school site, curriculum access and information accessibility which will allow all disabled pupils to take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by the school.

Whilst we commit to reasonable adjustments being made to accommodate all pupils and staff, allowing them to participate fully in school life, the physical geography and location of the school site may prevent us from being fully accessible.

Definition (Equality Act 2010)

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

Recent Site Developments

2013	New building (reception area/front of school) including disability access throughout
2023	Installation of new signage throughout site
2023	Review and update of Fire Evacuation procedures including assembly points
2023	Refurbishment works to perimeter fencing
2023	Reconfiguration of large teaching space into new Library/I-Centre
2023	Review and update of Critical Incident procedures
2023	Development of upgrade of site access via reception for pupil safety
2023	Reconfiguration of dining room area and replacement of fixed furniture with mobile dining furniture
2023	Reconfiguration of unused classrooms into Pupil Satellite Centre
2023	Review and update of Lockdown procedures
2023	Installation of new staff toilets

Individual Needs

Priorities set out in this plan may alter to accommodate the changing needs of individuals, as advised by the Headteacher and SENDCO.

Premises

To ensure that any developments do not fall into disrepair, all improvements made under this accessibility plan will be built into the regular checks of the Site Team and the Hub Facilities Manager, managed by the Trust Head of Capital & Compliance.

Specific Priorities include:

- To review access/entrance areas including low-level fencing
- Review cleaning management procedures across the site
- Installation of new lockdown notification alarm system (across Trust)
- Update of LED across site
- Change of use of First Aid room in reception to disabled access toilet
- Review and installation of site security fencing at front entrance
- Refurbishment of swimming pool and changing facilities
- To review the schools responsibilities in this area under the provisions of the Equality Act (2010).

In addition to these priorities Smestow Academy will:

- Consider making relevant switches, alarm controllers, and door handles at wheelchair height for new installations.
- Provide Evac chairs for relevant areas of the site and ensure ongoing training.

Curriculum Access

The school's Accessibility Vision Statement and SEND Policy make clear the schools approach to the delivery of the curriculum. The school actively seeks the support and advice of all relevant services/agencies to ensure the curriculum is accessible (where physically possible) to all students. Relevant modifications to the delivery of the curriculum are negotiated on an individual basis as required.

Specific priorities include:

- PE activities offered to pupils based on individual needs.
- Consideration given to reviewing location and delivery of curriculum subjects due to the needs of individual pupils.
- Providing curriculum material in large print for visually impaired pupils where necessary.
- Ensuring curriculum access for pupils with physical disabilities provided at ground floor level or in areas where a passenger lift and Evac chairs are accessible, where appropriate.

Information Accessibility

Smestow Academy is committed to ensuring that all information disseminated is done so in such a way as to be inclusive for all relevant audiences.

Specific set Priorities include:

- Ensuring all policies, plans & parental letters are uploaded to the school website allowing target audience to view them in large text.
- If requested and where possible, translating parental letters into home languages for non-English speaking parents.

Associated Policies and Plans

This plan is written in in association with and should be read in conjunction with other relevant documents including:

- SEND Policy

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Curriculum Statement
- School Evaluation and Development Plans
- Exams Policy
- Exams Disability Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Fire Evacuation Procedures

Review & Evaluation:

This plan has the status of a policy of the Governing Body and will be reviewed accordingly. It is monitored by the Headteacher and Trust Head of Capital & Compliance who will report on progress made to the Governing Body.