

# Trust Procedure

## Accessibility Procedure



This Trust Policy provides guidance on:

- Accessibility
- Key Principles



# Accessibility Procedure



## Management log

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## 1. Aims

All academies in Nova Education Trust (NET), in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001, and Equality Act 2010; must prepare accessibility plans.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum;
- improve the physical environment of schools to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided; and
- improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

All of our schools aim to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

## 2. 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 on the Equality Act 2010.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. 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.

## 3. Definitions

- **Disabled** - 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.
- **Long term** - 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.

## **4. Key principles and values**

### **4.1 Trust level**

Nova Education Trust recognises that many of their students, visitors and staff, whether disabled or otherwise, have individual needs when using school and its facilities. However, we also recognise that for some students, the nature of their disabilities may mean that they experience specific difficulties related to accessing education, and the physical environment.

As part of the ongoing commitment to the delivery of an inclusive educational service, we will endeavour to ensure that disabled students receive the same standards of education as non-disabled students.

### **4.2 School level**

All disabled children should have access to education. Wherever practicable, our academies will:

- Advise on the statutory responsibilities of education bodies in the preparation of accessibility strategies and accessibility plans
- Increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum
- Promote improvements in the delivery to disabled students of written information that is provided to students who are not disabled
- Encourage improvement in the physical environment of schools to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services.

Our academies will:

- Inform all staff that our policy for the provision of educational services ensures the inclusion of disabled students. Such communications will address the legal obligation of staff, and the Academy.
- Provide appropriate disability awareness training for staff, which will explain the school policy towards disabled students and the effective implementation and monitoring of it.
- Address acts of disability discrimination via existing conduct codes, where appropriate.
- Encourage suppliers and contractors, to adopt similar policies towards disabled students.
- Ensure they have an up-to-date accessibility plan which includes personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs).

In order to ensure that the educational services it provides effectively meet the needs of disabled students Nova Education Trust academies will:

- Consult with disabled students, parents, staff and disability organisations.
- Plan to make access improvements to enable disabled people to use its services. Furthermore, the school will effectively communicate its availability to both students and staff.

- Regularly review whether its education (and other) services are both accessible and effective, and take appropriate action.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis.
- Operate an accessible complaints procedure whereby disabled people can make improvement suggestions and request assistance.

#### **4.3 Wider partnerships**

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement this policy and plan.

### **5. Discrimination**

A responsible body discriminates against a disabled person if:

- For reasons which relate to their disability, it treats them less favourably than it treats or would treat others to whom that reason does not or would not apply.
- It cannot show that the treatment in question is justified.

Our schools are committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

### **6. Reasonable steps**

The duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that there is no discrimination intended as an 'anticipatory' duty and does not simply apply once an individual pupil presents him or herself.

### **7. Complaints**

Our school's complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, the complaints procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

This policy will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

### **8. Linked policies**

This policy is linked to the following policies:

- Behaviour Policy (Primary) (2022)
- Behaviour Policy (Secondary) (2022)
- Complaints Policy (2022)
- Educational Trips and Visits (2022)
- Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Health and safety policy
- Risk assessment policy
- SEND policy (2022)
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy (2022)
- Safeguarding policy (2022)

## **Appendix 1: Action plan**

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

The information set out in the column of 'current good practice' are examples to guide your own analysis of your current practice. They are not a thorough representation of good practice – you will need to adapt it to suit your school's context.

AIM	CURRENT GOOD PRACTICE Include established practice, and practice under development	OBJECTIVES State short, medium and long-term objectives	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DATE TO COMPLETE ACTIONS BY	SUCCESS CRITERIA
1. Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our school offers a scaffolded curriculum for all pupils as required</li> <li>Following advice from SFSS some children may follow an engagement model of learning</li> <li>We use resources tailored to the needs of pupils who require support to access the curriculum</li> <li>Curriculum resources include examples of people with disabilities</li> <li>Curriculum progress is tracked for all pupils, including those with a disability. We use B Squared to track smaller steps of progress.</li> <li>Targets are set effectively and are appropriate for pupils with additional needs</li> <li>The curriculum is reviewed to make sure it meets the needs of all pupils</li> <li>Part of the Toot Hill family of schools – training accessed via Family SENDCo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and adapt to individual pupil need</li> <li>Trust SENDCo to work with staff new to CA role.</li> <li>PICS training to provide clarity around intimate care</li> <li>PDSS Training to enable safe handling for physiotherapy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek advice from external agencies as appropriate</li> <li>Training plan in progress – individual sessions arranged</li> <li>Autism training session for staff</li> <li>Sensory processing day</li> <li>SFSS (schools and family support services) used to support children with high level funding (in person and remote support available)</li> </ul>	<p>SENDCo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RM</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Jan 2023-March 2023</p> <p>Dec 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2023</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children with a disability will have access to the same curriculum as their peers.</li> <li>Staff are confident to support children with additional needs</li> </ul>

AIM	CURRENT GOOD PRACTICE Include established practice, and practice under development	OBJECTIVES State short, medium and long-term objectives	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DATE TO COMPLETE ACTIONS BY	SUCCESS CRITERIA
2. Improve and maintain access to the physical environment	The environment is adapted to the needs of pupils as required. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramps</li> <li>• Corridor width</li> <li>• Disabled parking bays</li> <li>• Disabled toilets and changing facilities</li> <li>• Specialist chair and equipment for dining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised beds for garden</li> <li>• All weather pathway to access school grounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of accessible allotment area</li> <li>• Quote for pathways</li> <li>• Liaise with Tuesday Hanley</li> </ul>	S Adams L Williams T Hanley	Summer 2023	Children with mobility aids are able to access the entirety of the school grounds
3. Improve the delivery of information to pupils with a disability	Our school uses a range of communication methods to make sure information is accessible. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal signage</li> <li>• Large print resources</li> <li>• Pictorial or symbolic representations</li> <li>• Now and Next board</li> <li>• Timers</li> <li>• Signs and symbols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure children can access the curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wedge for visually impaired child</li> <li>• Magnifier</li> <li>• Reduced cognitive overload</li> <li>• Calm environment and natural resources</li> </ul>	SENDCo SLT	Sept 2022  Feb 23 ongoing	All children are able to access the information provided