

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

### Aims

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind. Millbank Academy strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect. Pupils are given the opportunity to experience, understand and value diversity.

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

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

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

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.

### Scope of the Plan

#### **1. Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided**

This strand of the planning duty covers aids to improve the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. The physical environment includes things such as steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces and paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits (including emergency escape routes), internal and external doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lighting, ventilation, lifts, floor coverings, signs and furniture. Aids to physical access include ramps, handrails, widened doorways, electromagnetic doors, adapted toilets and washing facilities, adjustable lighting and blinds.

Physical aids to access education cover things such as IT equipment, enlarged computer screens and keyboards, concept key boards, switches, suitable desks and chairs and portable

aids for children with motor coordination and poor hand/eye skills, such as specialist pens and pencils.

The provision of a special piece of equipment or extra assistance will be made through the SEND framework and, to a lesser extent, through the planning duty that applies to all schools. The distinction between auxiliary aids and services provided through the SEND route and those provided under the planning duty is that the SEND duties relate to the individual, whereas the planning duty relates to the provision of aids or services in terms of the population (and future population) of the school. For example, a student with visual impairment might have low vision aids provided through the statement of SEND, but the school might, as a general measure, provide blinds and adjustable the planning duty.

## **2. Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.**

The curriculum is carefully designed to meet the needs of all learners and all pupils access a broad and varied curriculum. All pupils are able to access learning at Millbank Academy.

This strand of the planning duty helps to improve access to a full, broad and balanced curriculum. It covers a range of elements including ensuring that teaching and learning is accessible through school and classroom organisation and support, especially deployment of staff, timetabling and access to resources.

Schools are expected to plan to improve progressively access to the curriculum for all disabled pupils, although many adjustments to access will be dependent on individual needs and may be provided through the SEN framework. The accessibility strategies and plans help to ensure that schools are planning and preparing to respond to the particular needs of individual pupils.

## **3. Improving the delivery of information to pupils with disabilities**

Pupils requiring additional support are clearly identified on entry to Millbank Academy. Those requiring specific support with communication are known by staff, so that their needs can be met in lesson. This part of the duty covers planning to make information normally provided by the school in writing to its pupils – such as handouts, timetables, textbooks, information about school events – available to disabled pupils. This will include alternative formats and large print and also the provision of information orally, through lip speaking or sign language, through a recognised symbol system or IT. This information should also be made available within a reasonable time frame and take account of the pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats.

## 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](#).

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.

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.

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.

## Monitoring

This document is reviewed every **3** years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary. It is approved by the Local Governing Body.

## Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy
- Health and safety policy
- Equality information and objectives (public sector equality duty) statement for publication
- Special educational needs (SEN) information report
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

## Millbank Academy | Accessibility Plan

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