



Accessibility Plan 2023-24

Introduction

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

At Ackworth Howard School we ensure that all children can belong, participate and achieve fully in school life by providing opportunities for growth in mind, body and spirit and ensuring education for life in all its fullness. We believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all who learn, teach and visit here. We aim to provide specialised support to address barriers to learning and raise self-esteem, confidence and resilience. We liaise closely with parents, carers and professional organisations to ensure that all the child's needs are addressed. We monitor the progress and attainment of all children with a disability and use this to develop inclusive teaching and raise achievement. We believe in the importance of developing a rich and diverse wider curriculum which allows all children to succeed. We make reasonable adjustments to ensure an accessible environment and curriculum.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Equality Act 2010

A person has a disability if:

- (a) The person has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and facilitate full participation in the school community for learners, and prospective learners, with a disability.

Principles

Ackworth Howard School recognises its duty

- To make reasonable adjustments to avoid disadvantage in provision, physical accessibility and practice.
- To make reasonable adjustments to provide auxiliary aids for children with a disability.
- Not to discriminate against disabled learners in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
- To publish an Accessibility Plan.

In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Equality Act 2010.

Ackworth Howard School recognises and values parent's and carer's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities. We work in partnership with parents to ensure high quality provision.

Ackworth Howard School provides all learners with a broad and balanced, local curriculum, adapted and adjusted to meet the needs of individual learners and their preferred learning styles; and provides support to address specific barriers to learning

Provision

Education & related activities

At Ackworth Howard School we aim to provide an inclusive curriculum, designed to meet the needs of all children. Staff training in early identification, inclusive learning and teaching and developing expertise in addressing specific barriers to learning is an integral part of the school improvement plan. We aim to maintain and develop our strong partnerships with other professional agencies and provide cohesive and co-ordinated support for all children and their families. All children have access to all areas of the curriculum, with support provided as required. We aim to develop a programme of continuing staff development in order to develop expertise in planning for learning to address specific barriers to learning and allowing all children to access an inclusive curriculum. Training will be planned and organised by the SENDCo and SLT. We will continue to develop systems to monitor and accelerate progress and attainment through developing expertise that will create appropriate targets and adaptations. We will continue to develop a rich, diverse curriculum.

Physical environment

Ackworth Howard School will take account of the needs of children and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises. Advice on specific requirements will be sought from The Visual Impairment Team, The Hearing Impairment Team, The ASD Team, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and other health agencies based on the needs of individuals.

Provision of information

At Ackworth Howard School we will make use of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested. We will respond to current needs and update as required. Large print information for children with Visual Impairment will be provided. We will continue to provide personal interaction for parents/carers with literacy difficulties and who have English as an additional language.

Financial planning and control

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team, together with the Finance Committee will review the financial implications of the School Accessibility Plan as part of the normal budget review process. The School Accessibility Plan will be used to inform the School Improvement Plan where appropriate.

Evacuation Procedures

The school will adapt its evacuation procedure to meet the specific needs of an individual with a disability. Such procedures will be discussed with the learner and parents/carers and an appropriate risk assessment produced. Learners who may find emergency evacuation difficult may have a support assistant in their class. A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) will be drawn up for students with additional needs/disabilities.

