



Title: Accessibility Plan Policy

Rev: 3

Date: June 2016

Introduction

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002.

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA): "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."

Steiner Academy Exeter recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality. The health and safety of the pupil concerned as well as the health and safety of the school as a whole will be considered.

Aim

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the life of Steiner Academy Exeter for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.

Principles

Steiner Academy Exeter provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:

- setting suitable learning challenges
- responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the Steiner Academy Exeter's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of its SEN policy. In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DfES Code of Practice (2002) and the school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):

- not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
- to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- to publish an Accessibility Plan.

Physical environment

The school's permanent site at Thomas Hall, Cowley Bridge Road, Exeter has both new build and refurbished elements. The new build structures of Teaching Block, Main Hall and Kindergarten Pods are all fully compliant with all relevant disabled access regulations, either being all on one level, or having lift access to the first floor. The refurbished Thomas Hall itself, has been reconfigured to allow access to all levels, either by lift, or externally.

All buildings are linked by level, hard surfaces that enable access by wheelchair between the blocks, and disabled parking spaces are provided at the Kindergarten Pods and adjacent to Thomas Hall for Classes 1-10. There is level access to much of the school grounds, including the main front playing space and the MUGA.

The internal colour scheme has been designed to meet the guidelines for those with visual impairments, and disabled toilets and changing facilities are provided throughout the site. Doors are wide enough to accommodate wheel chairs, and there are ambulant disabled toilets in every toilet area.

Steiner Academy Exeter will continue to take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the permanent site and premises.

Linked Policies

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, including:

- School Improvement Plan
- Staff development plan
- Master Plan and Vision strategy
- SEN policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Curriculum policies.

*Review frequency: Every three years. Relevant legislation: Equality Act 2010: Schedule 10, Paragraph 3.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/schedule/10>