



Dowson Primary Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

October 2026

Review Cycle: 3 Years



Rachel Douse

1.Vision & Values

At Dowson Primary Academy, we are committed to providing an inclusive environment where all pupils, staff, parents and visitors are valued and supported. We believe that every child has the right to access a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum and to participate fully in all aspects of school life.

2. 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 pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable pupils with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils with disabilities.

Dowson Primary Academy aims to treat all pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

The vision of the school is that all children will:

- Journey an individual and personalised path that means achievement for all.
- Celebrate their individuality and uniqueness, develop a strong sense of self and be confident in their autonomy.
- Be nurtured to thrive, receiving care and support to overcome barriers to learning and progress.
- Develop as inclusive, respectful and responsible members of society.

The Accessibility Plan will be made available on the school website and paper copies will be available upon request.

The school is committed to:

- Promoting equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors.
- Making reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities.
- Identifying and removing barriers to learning and participation.
- Training staff to understand their responsibilities under equality legislation.
- Working in partnership with parents, carers, external agencies and the Trust.
- Reviewing accessibility arrangements on an ongoing basis.

The Enquire Learning Trust recognises that accessibility planning is an anticipatory duty and seeks to identify and remove barriers before they affect pupils' access to education.

The Trust Complaints Procedure applies to this Accessibility Plan.

Stakeholders involved in the development and review of this plan include:

- Governors
- Headteacher

- SENDCo
 - Staff
 - Trust representatives
 - Parents and carers
 - Pupils (where appropriate)
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3. Legislation and Guidance

This document meets the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education guidance, Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools.

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Under the SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years:

- "Long-term" means a year or more.
- "Substantial" means more than minor or trivial.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities to prevent them being placed at a substantial disadvantage compared with non-disabled pupils. These may include:

- Auxiliary aids
- Specialist equipment
- Adaptations to teaching
- Alternative communication methods
- Modifications to the physical environment

This plan also supports compliance with:

- Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)
 - SEND Code of Practice (2015)
 - Children and Families Act 2014
 - Academy Trust funding requirements
 - Relevant safeguarding, health and safety and inclusion legislation.
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4. Action Plan

Aim 1: Increase Access to the Curriculum for Pupils with Disabilities

Current Good Practice

The school:

- Provides a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum.
- Uses adaptive teaching approaches.
- Tracks progress of all pupils including those with SEND and disabilities.
- Uses provision mapping and graduated support.
- Works closely with external agencies.
- Provides reasonable adjustments where required.
- Makes use of assistive technology and specialist resources.
- Reviews educational visits and enrichment activities to ensure inclusion.

Actions to be Taken

Actions	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Success Criteria
Annual staff training on SEND, adaptive teaching and equality duties	Headteacher / SENDCo	Annually	100% staff participation
Curriculum audit of teaching materials	Curriculum Leads	Annual	Increased disability representation across curriculum
Review accessibility of educational visits and residential	EVC / SLT	Ongoing	All pupils can access educational visits wherever reasonably possible
Purchase and review specialist equipment and assistive technology	SENDCo	Ongoing	Identified pupils have access to appropriate resources
Monitor progress, attendance and participation of pupils with disabilities	SENDCo	Termly	Gaps identified and addressed

Aim 2: Improve and Maintain Access to the Physical Environment

Current Good Practice

The school currently provides:

- Accessible entrances
- Accessible toilets
- Accessible parking
- Ramps and level access
- Wide corridors and doorways
- Evacuation procedures
- Accessible classrooms
- Suitable classroom layouts

Actions to be Taken

Actions	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Success Criteria
Annual accessibility audit of buildings and grounds	Site Manager	Annual	Audit completed and actions monitored
Review evacuation arrangements including PEEPs	Headteacher / Site Manager	Annual	Appropriate arrangements in place
Maintain accessible toilets and changing facilities	Trust Estates Team	Ongoing	Facilities remain fit for purpose
Monitor and reduce physical hazards.	Site Manager	July 2028	Improved accessibility identified through audit
Develop sensory-friendly spaces where required	SENDCo	Ongoing	Appropriate provision available

Aim 3: Improve the Delivery of Information to Pupils with Disabilities

Current Good Practice

The school currently provides:

- Large-print documents where required
- Differentiated resources
- Visual timetables and prompts
- Alternative methods of communication
- Accessible website information
- Induction loop in appropriate areas

Actions to be Taken

Actions	Person Responsible	Completion Date	Success Criteria
Continue Makaton training for identified staff	SENDCo	Annual	Increased communication support across school
Ensure information available in alternative formats upon request	School Office	Ongoing	Requests fulfilled promptly
Review website accessibility annually	Headteacher / Website Lead	Annual	Website accessibility maintained
Increase use of visual communication systems and digital accessibility.	SENDCo	Ongoing	Improved access for pupils with communication needs
Provide support for those with communication needs and translation support where appropriate	School Office	Ongoing	Families able to access key information

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This Accessibility Plan will be reviewed annually by:

- Headteacher
- SENDCo
- Local Governing Body

Review Date: September 2029

5. Links with Other Policies

This Accessibility Plan should be read alongside:

- Equality Information and Objectives
- SEND Policy
- SEND Information Report
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessments
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Administration of Medicines Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Curriculum Policies

Appendix 1: Accessibility Audit (2026)

Feature	Description	Actions to be Taken	Person Responsible	Review Date
Number of Storeys	School single storey. Access arrangements available where necessary.	Review annually.	Site Manager	Annual
Corridor Access	Corridors allow wheelchair access and movement.	Maintain clear routes and undertake termly checks.	Site Manager	Termly
Lifts	Not applicable.	Monitor if future capital works occur.	Trust Estates Team	Annual
Parking Bays	Accessible parking available.	Review signage and markings annually.	Site Manager	Annual
Entrances and Reception	Accessible entrance routes available.	Monitor operation of doors and access arrangements.	Site Manager	Annual
Induction Loop	Provision available and reviewed according to need.	Extend provision where required.	Trust Estates Team	Annual
Ramps and Steps	Accessible routes available.	Repaint step edges and maintain handrails as required.	Site Manager	Annual

Feature	Description	Actions to be Taken	Person Responsible	Review Date
Toilets	Accessible toilet provision available.	Review facilities and changing arrangements annually.	Site Manager	Annual
Internal Signage	Signage generally accessible.	Continue to improve high-contrast and symbol-based signage.	Site Manager	Annual
Emergency Escape Routes	Routes maintained and procedures in place.	Annual review of alarms, drills and evacuation plans.	Headteacher / Site Manager	Annual

Accessibility Plan Period: September 2026 to August 2029

Next Review: September 2029