

Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust



Accessibility Policy for Parklands High School

February 2026

Document Control

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Statement of intent

Parklands High School is committed to doing its “best endeavours” to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage and therefore works closely with pupils with disabilities, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove any potential barriers to their learning experience. The school is active in promoting an inclusive positive environment by ensuring that pupils are given equal opportunities to develop socially, to learn, and to enjoy school life. The school continually looks for ways to improve accessibility within the school through data collection, parents/carers questionnaires and discussions.

This policy outlines the principles that the school is committed to following throughout all accessibility planning activities to ensure that all disabled pupils are able to enjoy and access all aspects of educational life in the same way as other colleagues. The specific measures the school has taken to ensure the school is accessible are outlined within the Accessibility Plan.

The ways in which the school fosters inclusion and equality for pupils who share other protected characteristics are outlined in the Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and the ways in which the school ensures its practices and environments are accessible and inclusive for staff are outlined in the Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

This policy must be adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents and visitors.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education Act 1996
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Equality Information and Objectives Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy

2. Definitions

In line with the Equality Act 2010, “indirect discrimination” is defined as where a provision, criterion or practice is discriminatory in relation to a person’s protected characteristics, where:

- The provision, criterion or practice applies, or would apply, to people without those protected characteristics.
- It puts, or would put, people with those protected characteristics at a disadvantage compared to those without.
- The school cannot show that the provision, criterion or practice is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

The “protected characteristics” are: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership.

A person is defined as having a “disability” if they have a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The local governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that all accessibility planning, including the school's Accessibility Plan, adheres to and reflects the principles outlined in this policy.
- Approving this policy and the Accessibility Plan before they are implemented.
- Monitoring this policy and the Accessibility Plan.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Creating an Accessibility Plan with the intention of improving the school's accessibility, in conjunction with the governing board and in line with the school's legal obligations and the principles outlined in this policy.
- Ensuring that staff members are aware of pupils' disabilities and medical conditions where necessary.
- Establishing whether a new pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.
- Consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils' disabilities arise.
- Working closely with the governing board, LA and external agencies to effectively create and implement the school's Accessibility Plan.

The SENCO will be responsible for:

- Working closely with the headteacher and governing board to ensure that pupils with SEND are appropriately supported.
- Ensuring they have oversight of the needs of pupils with SEND attending the school, and advising the headteacher in relation to those needs as appropriate.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy and the Accessibility Plan at all times.
- Supporting disabled pupils to access their environment and their education wherever necessary, e.g. by making reasonable adjustments to their practice.
- Ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil as a result of their disability.

All staff members and governors will partake in whole-school training on equality issues related to the Equality Act 2010. Designated staff members will be trained to effectively support pupils with medical conditions.

4. Accessibility plan

The Accessibility Plan will be presented as a freestanding document.

Parklands' Accessibility Plan demonstrates how access will be improved for pupils with disabilities, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the school within a given timeframe. The plan has the following key aims:

- To increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum
- To improve and maintain the school's physical environment to enable pupils with disabilities to take advantage of the facilities and education on offer

The intention is to provide a projected plan for a 3 year period. If it is not feasible to undertake all of the plans/works during the lifespan of the Accessibility Plan, some items will roll forward into subsequent plans.

The Accessibility Plan will be used to measure the necessity of making reasonable adjustments in order to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities where practicable. The plan will be used to advise other school planning documents and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes.

The LA will provide auxiliary aids and services where necessary in order to help the school provide adequate support to pupils with disabilities.

5. Equal opportunities

Parklands strives to ensure that all existing and potential pupils are given the same opportunities. We are committed to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness. Staff members will be aware of any pupils who are at a substantial disadvantage and will take the appropriate steps to ensure the pupil is effectively supported.

The Accessibility Plan will detail any barriers which are hindering the opportunities for pupils with SEND. The aim of the plan is to take appropriate measures in order to overcome these barriers, allowing all pupils equal opportunities.

Wherever possible, teaching staff will adapt their lesson plans and the curriculum in order to allow all pupils to reach their full potential and receive the support they need.

The school will make all reasonable adjustments to allow pupils with SEND to participate in school activities.

6. Admissions

Parklands will act in accordance with the Admissions Policy. The school will apply the same entry criteria to all pupils and potential pupils.

Parklands will strive to not put any pupil at a substantial disadvantage by making reasonable adjustments prior to the pupil starting at the school.

All pupils, including those with SEND, will have appropriate access to all of the opportunities available to any member of the school community.

Information will be obtained on future pupils in order to facilitate advanced planning.

Prospective parents/carers of pupils with EHCPs, and pupils with SEND, are invited to a transition meeting prior to the pupils starting the school in order to discuss the specific needs.

7. Curriculum

Parklands is committed to providing a healthy environment that enables full curriculum access, which values and includes all pupils regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual and emotional needs.

Pupils should not be excluded from any aspect of the school curriculum due to their disabilities or impairments.

Parklands aims to provide a differentiated curriculum to enable all pupils to feel secure and make progress.

The Curriculum Leader for each subject and the SENCO will work together with advice sought from outside agencies where appropriate, to allow all pupils to reach their full potential.

Physical education lessons will be adapted, wherever possible, to allow pupils with disabilities to participate in lessons.

Where areas of the curriculum present particular challenges for a pupil, these are dealt with on an individual basis.

The class teacher, in discussion with the pupil, the SENCO and their parents/carers, will ensure that reasonable adjustments, in line with common sense and practical application, be made for any particular disability or impairment.

There are established procedures for the identification and support of pupils with SEND in place at the school.

Detailed pupil information on pupils with SEND are given to relevant staff in order to aid teaching. Where pupils have visual impairments and/or hearing impairments, advice will be sought from the relevant organisations.

The school ensures that specialist resources – including physical resources, e.g. large-print books, and human resources, e.g. learning support assistants – are available and appropriately deployed for pupils who require or would benefit from them to fully participate in the curriculum.

8. Physical environment

The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils, staff members, parents and visitors have equal access to areas and facilities within the school premises.

The school will ensure that accessibility audits are conducted for those within the school community to ensure that specific needs are taken into account; however, in general, the school will make its best endeavours to anticipate potential access needs that may be encountered in the future and to ensure that the physical environment is as accessible as possible for all current and prospective pupils.

The specific ways in which the school will ensure its physical environment is accessible in full to all members of the school community, irrespective of any protected characteristics, are detailed within the school's Accessibility Plan.