



Sheffield Springs Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Accessibility Plan

January 2015 to January 2018

To be reviewed annually

Accessibility Statement

Our Academy provides a premise that is suitable and sufficient for all learning requirements. The Academy will provide a broad curriculum which will be accessible to all students irrespective of special need or disability.

This Accessibility Policy and Plan are drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, (relating to Disability,) of the Equality Act 2010. It also operates alongside and within the Academy's special educational needs (SEN) policy. School governors and United Learning are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on the progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

Our aim is to ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the learning needs of students with SEN needs and disabilities, and ensure targets are effective and appropriate. We will make certain that the physical environment of the school buildings and grounds is managed and improved to meet the needs of a range of current and prospective students with disabilities as well as staff members and visitors. To ensure staff, visitors or students with SEN needs and disabilities are not alienated or discriminated against. We will ensure that everyone is equally able to access the curriculum, information and employment where required.

We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disabilities and to develop a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

This plan will be reviewed annually and updated every 3 years or when required, when necessary within the 3 year period.

This plan will be monitored by the local governing body and Ofsted as part of their monitoring cycle.

Accessibility Plan

Section 1: Access to the curriculum

This section of the plan will be accomplished in conjunction with the SEND policy and will adhere to the Academy's vision and aims.

- The Academy will ensure that the curriculum is equally accessible to all students irrespective of disability in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010. This will include teaching and learning as well as extra-curricular activities.
- The Academy will maintain good communication links with other agencies regarding student's information. This will ensure a smooth transition for students moving both from and to the Academy.
- The academy will strive to identify any barriers to the curriculum as quickly as possible.
- The academy will work closely with students, their families and staff members to embed inclusive practices and will match levels of support to the identified needs of the student.
- All class teachers will consider, in advance, the needs of each student to ensure they have equal access to the curriculum.
For example: Seating plans may need to be considered in accordance with SEN requirements or special equipment may need to be enquired and in place for learning.
- Further consideration may be required for the delivery of practical lessons for disabled students. In this scenario a risk assessment must be completed. This should consider the student and any other person affected by their participation or omission.
- The school minibus is now equipped for wheelchair accessibility so students who require the use of a wheelchair will not be limited for learning outside the academy.

Section 2: Access to Information

The academy will liaise with the local authority to ensure compliance with Local authority and government statutes. We aim to provide students, parents, staff and visitors with the information they require whilst retaining to confidentiality.

- All policies and other relevant documentation will be published on our website. Hard copies can be made available on request.
- Documents can be provided in other formats, upon requests to the reception, to meet the needs of the receiver.

Section 3: Access to the Premises

Sheffield Springs Academy is a purpose built education facility which opened in February 2008. It is a single building over three floors constructed around an amphitheatre area. The site shares one access route with a leisure centre. The premises has a 100 space carpark to the right rear, a large yard at the rear and games fields to the left of the building (From Hurlfield road).

Individuals with a disability will have timetables scheduled to avoid high volumes of traffic on the corridors when possible. We will also work with the individual to discuss a PEEP and if required a care plan.

1. Car Park Access:

The Academy has 5 disabled parking spaces which are within the required 50m vicinity of the building main entrance and reception area (Actual 7m) and this is a well-lit route. These spaces allow a width of at least 360cm and a length of 500cm. The route to the main entrance is considered well signed. Access from the carpark to the entrance is level and there are dropped kerbs where necessary. The main carpark is well lit and monitored by CCTV cameras to enhance safety. The surface of the carpark is level tarmac.

2. Entrance Access

There is a main entrance, a student entrance and a sports entrance to the academy all of which are on ground floor level and allow easy access for wheelchair users. The main entrance doors are automatic but controlled by a maglock and intercom system which is at wheelchair height. The other entrances are controlled by a maglock system. The reception has a hearing loop facility.

3. Meeting Rooms

There are 2 meeting rooms at ground level adjacent to the main reception which are wheelchair accessible.

4. Toilets for the disabled

The school has 8 disabled toilets throughout the three floors and 2 wheelchair accessible shower wet rooms with toilet and shower facilities which comply with the required dimensions of 220cmx150cm (actual toilets 4.5m² and wet rooms 6.7m²) and have contrasting coloured grab rails. In both wet rooms there is an emergency pull cord which, if pulled activates an alarm which is both visual and auditory outside the wet room.

5. Corridors access and stairwells

Fire doors may require some form of assistance with opening for wheelchairs uses. All visual panels are at wheelchair height. All corridors are clear of obstruction and internal doors give an opening exceeding the 75cm required. Stairwells are accessed via maglock controlled doors and have a rise of 16cm and a going of 30cm The flights are 165cm width which exceeds the required minimum of 100cm. The nosing has a contrasting coloured strip to indicate the drop. There are 12 steps in each flight and intermediate landings between flights. The stairwells have continuous handrails on both sides and these continue at least 30cm past the top and bottom of the stairwell.

6. Main Hall

The main hall is on the first floor which is accessible by lift or stairs via the main foyer. There is no hearing loop fitted in the main hall (Target).

7. Dining Hall

The seating is in the main folding table with attached seats. Other standard tables and chairs can be made available on request.

8. Lift access

The Academy has 2 lifts to access the other 2 floors. One is a Platform lift and other a full passenger lift. Both adhere to the required dimensions of 140cmx110cm and the controls are at a height of between 90cm to 120cm.

9. Technology Facilities

We have an adjustable height workbench in the food technology area which allows for the workspace, sink, hob etc. to be lowered to wheelchair height. We have lower level workspace on both design technology and science however they are not equipped for all practical lessons.

Targets for consideration

- Installation of a public telephone with auditory hood.
- Installation of a text phone.
- Installation of evacuation chairs.
- Training for use of evacuation chairs.
- Hearing loop for the main hall.