



Half Acres Primary Academy

Accessibility Policy

Introduction

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Equality Act 2010. 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.

Definition of Disability

Under the Act, a person has a disability if:

- they have a physical or mental impairment;
- the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.

The Equality Act 2010 aims to protect disabled people, prevent disability discrimination, and hate crimes against disabled people.

The Equality Act also provides rights for people not to be directly discriminated against or harassed because they have an association with a disabled person. This can apply to a personal assistant or parent of a disabled person. In addition, people must not be directly discriminated against or harassed because they are wrongly perceived to be disabled.

Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to full participation in Half Acres Primary Academy community for pupils, and prospective pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors with a disability.

Principles

- Compliance with the Equality Act is consistent with the Academy's aims and single equalities, and the operation of its SEN Policy;
- The Academy recognises its duty under the Equality Act (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
- In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission Code of Practice (2002);
- The Academy recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respect the parents' and child's right to confidentiality;
- The Academy 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 framework which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum;
- Setting suitable learning challenges
- Responding to pupils' diverse needs

- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Activity

a) Education and related activities

- The Academy will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as specialist advisers, SEN advisers and appropriate health professionals from the local NHS trusts.
- The Academy's SENCO, in conjunction with class teachers, has the day-to-day responsibility for monitoring the progress and attainment of pupils with disabilities, and ensuring reasonable adjustments are made to enable them to access the curriculum, and wider academy activities. This may include the deployment of teaching assistants appropriate to facilitate participation.
- Staff will be provided with appropriate training to enable them to devise a curriculum, which seeks to remove potential barriers to learning and addresses the needs of all pupils. The curriculum will also include opportunities to raise awareness of disability in order to promote understanding.

b) Physical environment

- The Academy design is broadly suited to providing wheelchair access. Recent building and grounds work complies with the Equality Act.
- Half Acres Academy will take account of needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.

c) Provision of information

- The Academy will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Action Plan

See Appendix 1 - This has been developed after an accessibility audit of Half Acres Academy in October 2014. A further review was carried out at Half Acres on the 14th December 2017 due to the major refurbishment carried out. The

significant findings are detailed below and should be progressed in line with the planned and structured maintenance programme.

Linked Policies

This policy will contribute to the review and revision of related policies/documents, e.g. SEN Policy.

Review dates

Original assessment: November 2014

Last review: December 2017

Next review: December 2018

Appendix 1

Action Plan: Half Acres Primary Academy

The following detail is taken from an accessibility audit. The **initial** audit was completed by the Local Authority. **A review of the audit has been carried out in December 2017 due to a major refurbishment. This review has been completed by Ford Risk Management.**

In areas deemed "public" the identified issues should be addressed as part of planned and structured maintenance programme:

Site Plan Ref.	Questions	BV 156	Part M	Equality Act (DDA)	Comments
016/020	Routes free of kerbs?	No	No	No	The parking space requires: signage and a landing adjacent to the gates.
023	Main Entrance: Ramp accompanied by steps for ambulant disabled people?	No	No	No	There are no steps to the main entrance. Some groups of people with mobility impairments find it difficult to use ramps.
044	Door control at a suitable height for both standing and	No	No	No	The existing controls need to be lowered.

	seated users, clearly located and easy to use?				
060 / 171, etc	Induction loop fitted and advertised?	No	No	No	A fixed counter loop should be fitted.
123	Sufficient space for ambulant disabled people to manoeuvre?	No	No	No	Provide outward opening cubical doors and handrails at aid people raise and lower themselves.
142	Part M and peninsular layouts: - Fittings clearly distinguishable from walls and floor?	No	No	No	Create colour contrasts.




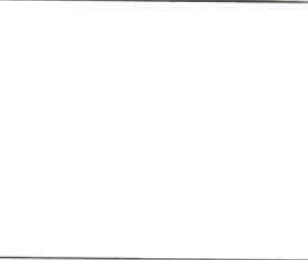
In areas deemed "private" the identified requirements should be implemented, if or when, either a staff member or pupil starts to attend the school, an existing user becomes impaired, or when work is undertaken to improve the building, these should be carried out to the current regulations.





Site Plan Ref	Questions	BV1 56	Part M	DDA	Comments
4.0	Internal/External Steps	No	No	No	There are a number of entrance/exits that would require to be ramped and the existing steps improved with both "tactiles" and "nosing" identifications. It may be more effective if the school's management plan made adjustment for impaired people.
067	Corridors are they free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired sight?	No	No	No	The existing corridors meet the requirements of the Act, but have obstructions/ furniture in them. This would need to be removed and placed elsewhere.
076	Clear opening width sufficient for a wheelchair user?				There are a number of double doors that would be better suited for wheel chair users if they could be replaced with a wide door and a narrow one
	Staff/Pupil toilets				These would require adaptations to the specific needs of the impaired person.
	Colours, tones and				The majority of the electrical equipment requires to be contrasted

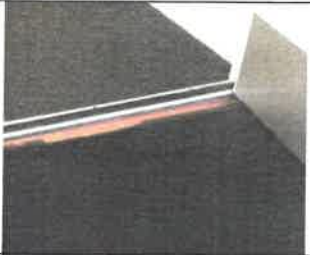



165/ 181	textures varied to help people distinguish between surfaces and fittings / fixtures etc.	No	No	No	from the background, this is to aid people with visual impairments.
182	Controls - At a suitable height for both seated and standing users?	No	No	No	The control equipment would need lowering to aid wheel chair users.
207	Audible alarm system supplemented by visual system where people are likely to be alone (e.g. in toilets)?	No	No	No	New system being planned.


Additional observations highlighted during Accessibility review in December 2017 carried out by Ford Risk Management

Location	Photograph	Commends/Recommendation
Ground floor accessible washroom 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good contrast of all fixtures and fittings within the washroom is present • Due to the location of hand dryer, which is currently out of reach, a reasonable adjustment would be to install a paper hand towels dispenser next to the soap dispenser • Provide additional coat hook on the internal side of the entrance door. Currently only one coat hook is provided which is out of reach to wheelchair users
Ground floor accessible washroom 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items, including baby changing facility and waste bin were found in the transition zone. This area should be kept clear at all times so that wheelchair users can use the facility • The baby changing facility should be fixed to the wall so that it doesn't obstruct the transition zone and is kept in a clean condition • If possible, pedal waste bins should be avoided in accessible washrooms
Ground floor accessible washroom 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency pull cord was found to be disconnected and non-operational • The emergency pull cord should have two bangles, at the end of the cord and one in the middle so that it can be reached from any position

<p>Ground floor stair lift corridor</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emergency telephone serving the stair lift cannot be used in the event of emergency due to its location. The phone should be located in the reception area, where member of staff can pick it up and provide assistance
<p>Ground floor stair lift</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The control buttons are tactile and have Braille on the buttons, but the 'press and hold' signage doesn't. All the operational instructions should be at least tactile to ensure consistency and that persons with vision impairments can use the facility
<p>Ground floor stair lift</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emergency intercom signage should be at least tactile to ensure consistency and allow persons with vision impairments raise an alarm when trapped in the stair lift
<p>Ground floor stairs</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor contrast identified between the steps and nosings. When next planning refurbishment or as part of the 'tear and wear' regime the contrast should be improved

<p>Ground floor staff rest area</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When next planning refurbishment ensure that a variety of seating is available in the rest area, with and without arm rests. This greatly help persons with minor mobility impairments and expectant mothers
<p>Ground floor accessible washroom 2</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good contrast of all fixtures and fittings within the washroom is present • Due to the location of hand dryer, which is currently out of reach, a reasonable adjustment would be to install a paper hand towels dispenser above the horizontal grab rail • Provide additional coat hook on the internal side of the entrance door. Currently only one coat hook is provided which is out of reach to wheelchair users
<p>Ground floor accessible washroom 2</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items, such as waste bin and table were found in the transition zone. This area should be kept clear at all times so that wheelchair users can use the facility
<p>Ground floor accessible washroom 2</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency pull cord should hang freely so that it is within a reach at all times

<p>Ground floor side entrance/ emergency exit</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entrance should be levelled as it currently creates a barrier to wheelchair users and prams
<p>Ground floor side entrance/ emergency exit ramp</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top and bottom of the ramp should be marked to warn the users about the change of level
<p>Emergency exit from the sports hall</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "nosings" on the steps should be marked in order to make them more distinguishable and to minimise slip hazard. • When next planning refurbishment you should consider extending the length of the hand rail so that it ends at the ground level • The handrail should be repainted to ensure the contrast is maintained • This is also the nearest emergency evacuation exit and should be equipped with a portable ramp
<p>Ground floor side emergency exit</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single steps on the emergency exits should be avoided if possible. When next planning refurbishment consider levelling the step

Ground floor staff washroom		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When next planning refurbishment consider improving contrast within the washroom so that all fixtures and fittings are distinguishable
Main entrance - car park		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the layout of the accessible bay so that it is a mirror image of the other accessible bay located on the other side of the ramp

R. Hill 16/4/18.