

Accessibility Plan

2022-2025

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Approved by:	Local Academy Board
Date of next Review:	September 2024



Wyvern
Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

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1. Aims

All schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to implement an accessibility plan.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- To maximise the extent to which students with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the environment of the school and its resources, to enable disabled students to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities, and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled students and their families.

Wyvern Academy recognises its duty under The Equality Act 2010:

- **Not to** discriminate against students with disabilities in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services.
- **Not to** treat students with disabilities less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- **To make** reasonable adjustments to avoid putting students with disabilities at a substantial disadvantage.
- **To publish** an Accessibility Plan that will demonstrate our intentions to increase access to education at Wyvern Academy for students with disabilities.

Wyvern Academy recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out some activities and respects the parents' and the child's right to confidentiality.

Wyvern Academy ensures a high-quality experience for all students to help maximise everyone's potential, whilst supporting creativity and individuality within teaching and learning. Some of the tools we use to support this are:

- intelligent sequencing,
- knowledge organisers,
- highly tailored learning activities,
- effective formative assessment,

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, please contact the Assistant Headteacher (SENDCo) K. Marley in the first instance. If you feel your concerns have not been dealt with adequately, the Trust's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan and sets out the process for raising any concerns.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010.

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

Under the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'.

The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer, and other 'invisible' disabilities such as dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for students with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled student may face in comparison with a non-disabled student. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

3. Appendix 1 – Site Access Aim

SITE ACCESS AIM	TARGET	STRATEGIES /PLANNING	INTERIM REVIEW DATE	STATUS 2021
Wyvern Academy car parking access	PARKING	Disabled parking spaces are available in the car park and clearly marked. There is also the possibility to stop close to an entrance to drop off/collect students.	January 2023	Implemented
Textured surfaces to support visually disabled navigation around the site	All entrances marked with appropriate textured surfaces to identify entry/exit points	Main site entrance complete. Reviews of surfacing around the rest of the site are ongoing.	January 2023	Planning
No students to be absent on the basis of lack of accessibility to the site	Fully accessible site	Any student with a short or long-term disability will be risk assessed and an individual solution will be formulated. This may entail re-rooming lessons currently on upper floors.	Reviewed periodically through fortnightly Curriculum Group (CGM) Meetings.	Implemented
Accessibility to the site buildings – no barrier to any student with specific sensory/physical impairments	Fully accessible buildings	The nature of the building currently means that there is limited access to the buildings for students with physical disabilities and also with some sensory impairments. Work is planned for a lift and ramping to be installed to enable access to the Science block and Canteen area. The Estates team is reviewing the feasibility of adding lifts to the main building and ramps around a sloping site.	January 2023	Planned for July/August 2022. Now delayed.
Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) and this is communicated to staff, students and parents	Accessibility to all areas/rooms in the school building	Staff prepare emergency evacuation plans for all students with disabilities of any type who may find themselves on an upper floor in the event of an emergency. Appropriate evacuation equipment is still required on site.	January 2023	Implementing

4. Appendix 2 – Curriculum Access Target

CURRICULUM ACCESS TARGET	LEAD PROFESSIONAL	STRATEGIES/PLANNING	INTERIM REVIEW DATE	CURRENT STATUS
High quality first teaching alongside Student Passports	SENDCo/Assistant Head (T&L)	Focused use of Edukey to support staff and students to develop high quality teaching approaches.	September 2022	Implementing
Ensure all staff are aware of Student Passports and information is shared with external agencies	SENDCo	All staff have access to Edukey which details a range of strategies to allow curriculum access whatever the disability.	September 2022	Implemented
Review curriculum area planning to ensure students with disabilities are taken into account	SENDCo/Assistant Head (T&L)	Curriculum intent has been fully reviewed. All medium-term planning makes progress steps explicit and inclusive for all.	September 2022	Implemented
Ensure disabled students participate equally in roles and responsibilities	Assistant Head (Personal Development)	Ensure disabled students are involved in programmes such as ambassadors, student voice and prefects.	September 2022	Implemented
Ensure disabled students participate equally in after school and lunchtime activities	Curriculum Leaders/Pastoral Leaders	Continued liaison with pastoral team to track opportunities and engagement for all students	September 2022	Implemented
School Visits and trips to be accessible to all	SENDCo, Careers Advisor, Curriculum Leaders	Accessibility of all trips (curriculum and extra-curricular) and venues to be considered as part of the trip authorisation process before being offered to students.	September 2022	Implemented
Recommendations made by specialist area teams are implemented and reviewed	SENDCo	Close links are made with Darlington specialist teams and external agencies increasing the range of services employed as appropriate.	September 2022	Implemented

5. Appendix 3 – Equipment in Place for Assisting Students

EQUIPMENT IN PLACE FOR ASSISTING STUDENTS	TARGET	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	INTERIM REVIEW DATE	STATUS
Radio Aids	Devices available for all hearing-impaired students.	SENDCo	September 2022	Implemented
Hearing Loops	Hearing loops fitted in all classrooms and main hall, or portable loops made available for all who would benefit from them.	Facilities Manager/SENDCo	September 2022	Planning
Seating for visually impaired students	All teachers aware of visually impaired students in their classes and seating allocated appropriately using seating plans in Class Charts.	Teaching Staff	September 2022	Implemented
Use of coloured overlays/exercise books/handouts. If appropriate, students referred to optician for glasses with coloured lenses	Appropriately coloured overlays available for all students who would benefit from them. Exercise books with coloured paper offered and handouts etc., printed onto coloured paper.	SEN Support team/BSO for resourcing	September 2022	Implementing
Lifts and Ramps	See Site Access Aim 4, above regarding permanent lifts and ramps. Short-term solution to provide portable ramps for access to the Science block/canteen area.	Facilities Manager/Trust Estates Team	January 2023	Planning
Signage around the site	Signs to include braille, visual directions to include images for students with reading difficulties/EAL.	SENDCo and Site team	January 2023	Planning
Letters/Written material available to students/parents in translation to an appropriate medium	All written correspondence from the school to be available to all students/parents in a form that they can readily access and understand.	SENDCo and BSO	September 2022	Implementing
Accessible toilet facilities available around the site	Availability of an accessible toilet in the same area as general toilet facilities. To be equipped with appropriate transfer support and alarms.	Site Team	September 2022	Planning

6. Appendix 4 – Support for Parents

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS	LEAD PROFESSIONAL	STRATEGIES/PLANNING	INTERIM REVIEW DATE	CURRENT STATUS
Interpretation available for parents if required	SENDCo	Forge links with other agencies to access interpretation services	September 2022	Planning
Review information to parents/carers to ensure it is accessible	SENDCo/BSO	Review of parent communications to ensure they meet plain English recommendations. Develop the availability of spoken language versions of letters.	Fortnightly review of Administrative provision through line management of Administration by BSO (CM).	Planning
Develop a parents' network with virtual meetings to discuss and share concerns and sources of further support	SENDCo	All parents to be invited to meetings half termly, develop a programme of focus for meetings.	Half-termly P&C meetings through AHT (SENDCo). Review of progress through line management meetings with HT.	Implementing