



# **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2021 - 2024**

## **Dartington C of E Academy**

**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE**

# Vision, Core values and 6 Principles of Excellence

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**Our Vision:** To transform children's lives.

**Our Mission/ Core Purpose:**

To develop a 'values led' family of exceptional schools that always puts children first. Where learners excel and communities are enriched so that the life chances of more and more children are improved.

**Our Core Values:** Collectively Empowering Excellence

**Excellence:** We champion excellence and equality for all and in all that we do.

**Empowering:** We invest in each other and our communities.

**Collectively:** We are one team and agree to work as one family.

## Trust Principles of Excellence

The Trust Core Values are underpinned by the following agreed 6 Principles of Excellence. These are our non-negotiables.

1. **Priority, Children First:** In every action we take and decision that we make.
2. **Aspirational Expectations:** A culture where every child will succeed.
3. **Excellence in Teaching and Learning:** Excellent, passionate staff transform children's lives. For our children, we collectively empower excellence.
4. **Professional Development- Investing in People:** Committing to world class, bespoke, Continuing Professional Development. For our staff, we collectively empower excellence.
5. **Distinctiveness:** We embrace, encourage and celebrate the uniqueness of each of our schools, recognising the context of the community that it serves and the curriculum that it offers to meet those needs. For our communities, we collectively empower excellence.
6. **Leadership with Vision and Efficacy:** Working together, we deliver and achieve much more than we could ever do individually. Collective expertise, shared responsibility, accountability and financial efficiencies add value and improve outcomes for children.

## Dartington Academy Christian Vision: Together we grow, together we flourish

Our Christian vision is the same for all our pupils. Underpinned by John 10:10 'I come that they may have life and live it to the fullest' we provide an inclusive, bespoke curriculum that enables all of our children to grow and flourish and prepare them for the next stage of their lives.

The Christian vision is supported by our Christian values: **Peace, Wisdom, Compassion, Trust, Creation and Creativity** and love encompassing all.

### 1. Aims

Academies are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- Improved the physical environment of the academies to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

The Trust aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind. The Accessibility Plan will be made available online on the academy website, and paper copies are available upon request.

The Trust is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues. The Trust supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan.

Trustees are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

The Trust recognises that regular and reliable data is essential if the Trust and academy is to know and understand the needs of its pupils, parents, staff and trustees and to be able to monitor progress against its Action Plan.

An Accessibility Audit will be completed by the academy to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

The Head of Academy will monitor the Action Plan on behalf of the Academy and liaise with the Trust Executive Team who report to the Board of Trustees.

This plan reflects statutory requirements for the setting of Equality Objectives.

Our complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this accessibility plan.

## 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 he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a “substantial” and “long-term” adverse effect on this or her 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, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Academies are required to make “reasonable adjustments” for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

This Accessibility Plan complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association.

The Learning Academy Partnership (the Trust) incorporates:

- Ilsham Church of England Academy
- Ellacombe Church of England Academy
- Little Stars Childcare Centre
- All Saints Marsh Church of England Academy
- Warberry Church of England Academy
- All Saints’ Thurlestone Church of England Academy
- West Alvington Church of England Academy
- Charleton Church of England Academy
- Dunsford Community Academy
- Dartington Church of England Academy
- St Michael’s Church of England Academy (opening September 2021)

Appendix 1	Action Plan – Increasing Access for disabled pupils to the Curriculum
Appendix 2	Action Plan – Increasing access for disabled pupils to the physical environment
Appendix 3	Action plan – Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils
Appendix 4	Dartington Access Statement

## Appendix 1

### Access Plan: Part 1

Increasing access for disabled pupils to the curriculum

Target	Action	Resources	Outcomes	Time
Curriculum adjustments ensure fair access for all	<p>Consider needs of all pupils when planning lessons, adjust resources accordingly such as text size, paper colour, writing equipment, classroom position etc</p> <p>With consideration for those children with general and specific learning difficulties.</p> <p>Ensure staff have access to the inclusion data of pupils for who they teach to ensure they can plan and deliver to meet their needs</p>		<p>All pupils access the curriculum.</p> <p>Structured conversations as appropriate with parents and carers.</p>	As required to meet need
Ensure teaching and learning methods and environment supports pupils with hearing impairment	<p>Quiet classrooms, child facing teacher, clear enunciation. Support as required.</p> <p>Hearing loop with teacher wearing aid to pick up voice.</p>		Progress confirmed by observations and formal assessment	As required to meet needs.
Ensure teaching and learning methods and environment supports pupils with visual impairment	<p>Pupil faces teacher, glasses worn.</p> <p>Modified print</p>	Access to ICT equipment as required	Progress confirmed by observations and formal assessment	As required to meet needs

Ensure teaching and learning methods and environment supports pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties	Layout of classroom, time out, clear targets, clear behavioural expectations	Additional support as required Safe space set out and established	Progress confirmed by teaching assessment and achieving targets	As required to meet needs
Ensure teaching and learning methods and environment supports pupils with diagnosed medical conditions	Accessibility of medication. Awareness of staff when planning activities. Risk awareness register (medical)		Pupils able to access all activities	As required to meet needs
Update curriculum and general policies	Rolling programme of policy review to ensure that policies are up to date and comply with legislation	Senior Executive Meetings, Senior Leadership and staff PDMs	Policies reflect the Trust's commitment to removing barriers to learning.	Ongoing
Prepare a response programme of training for all staff to meet requirements of disabled pupils	Ensure SENCo fully trained to be responsive to needs that may arise . School nurse , Educational psychologists, VI support, Occupational therapy and physio support.	CPD/training	SENCo able to disseminate good practice and information to all staff	Ongoing
To use external services to support pupils with a disability.	Access external services for advice and support and then to provide ongoing advice and support as required	Time: for staff to liaise with specialists Financial: purchase of specialised equipment as required	The environment is appropriate, and staff are well prepared to meet the needs of a pupil with a disability. Staff have greater understanding of disability issues.	Ongoing
Provide training for staff.	Staff attend relevant courses, SENCO to have an overview of the needs of disabled pupils. Share successful practice within the academies.	Financial – cost of CPD	Staff are deployed effectively and have high expectations of disabled pupils. Raised awareness of the learning needs of pupils with a variety of disabilities/special needs	Ongoing

Develop a range of learning resources.	As resources are updated, ensure they will meet the differing needs of pupils.	Cost of new resources and materials.	Pupils with disabilities have access to appropriate curriculum materials.	Ongoing
Ensure venues for school trips are suitable	Pre-visit assessment of suitability- transport, access, toilets. Risk assess through Evolve and include staff briefing	Evolve SLA	Equal opportunities for Children with disabilities to participate in off-site activities.	Training and administration
Classrooms optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of equipment and furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual classes.	Use visual timetables	Children have ready access to a range of resources. Sessions start on time without the need to make adjustments.	
Extracurricular activities planned to ensure participation by all	Review extracurricular provision regularly. Preparation meeting with parents/carers to make all necessary additional arrangements		Out of school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment	As required in response to pupil need
Review staff deployment	Establish timetables to provide support for pupils	Overtime/additional hours as required	Support available during key times when individuals may need support	Ongoing

## Appendix 2

### Access Plan: Part 2

Increasing access for disabled pupils to the physical environment

Target	Action	Resource	Outcome	Time
<p>Access: To be aware of the access needs of all pupils/staff/trustees/parents and carers.</p> <p>Ensure all staff and trustees and other volunteers/visitors to the academy are aware of access issues</p>	<p>Gather data around access needs at the point when a child begins at an academy</p> <p>Create access plans for individuals as required</p> <p>Reminder to parents, carers through communication to let us know if they have problems with access to areas of the academy.</p> <p>Include an accessibility plan as part of induction</p>	<p>As per access plan</p>	<p>Individual, relevant and current information is gathered and shared as required so that all needs are met.</p>	<p>Annually or as required</p>
<p>Ensure everyone has access</p>	<p>Ensure that nothing is preventing access for all. Ramps to play areas and disabled toilets in KS2 and Reception area. The main school is all on one level for ease of access. (See access statement Appendix 4)</p>	<p>Caretaker/staff daily checks to ensure entrances are clear of obstruction</p>	<p>All visitors feel welcome</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Dedicated parking area</p>	<p>To offer 2x disabled parking spaces offered to children with the highest mobility needs in the school car park. Dedicated spaces also available in</p>	<p>Liaise with external agencies</p>	<p>Accessible parking for all visitors staff and pupils</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	the two parent car parks: Meadowbrook and Dartington Hall.			
Improve access to site	Ensure pathways are gritted and ice free  Check exterior lighting is working on a regular basis	Caretaker time	Paths accessible and safe  Improved safe access for pupils, parents, staff and visitors	As required
Exits Ensure all disabled or impaired pupils, staff visitors can be safely evacuated	Ensure there is a personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP) for disabled pupils		Pupils and staff are safe	As required
Ensure the buildings remain full accessible and compliant in line with the Equality Act	Ensure building and maintenance works are fully compliant with the Equality Act and DDA Regulations		Wheelchair access to majority of building including DDA toilets and a learning space	As works are undertaken
Each academy will undertake Fire Safety risk assessments. Fire equipment is regularly checked and maintained.	Ensure staff are fully trained and aware of their duties		All staff and pupils have safe independent exits from sites	Daily

### Appendix 3

#### Access Plan: Part 3

Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils - The LAP Academies

Target	Action	Resources	Outcome	Time
Availability of written materials in different formats	Use a variety of formats for communication, including text, email. Ensure parents/carers are aware that communication can be provided in alternative formats	Administration time	The academy will be able to provide information in different formats. Parents and carers become aware.	Ongoing
Make available academy publications in alternative formats	Review all publications and provide in format required	Administration time	Information available for all in different formats and electronically	Ongoing
Academy provides electronic versions of most publications including reporting, newsletters and letters.	Continue to explore new methods	Administration time	Head of Academy and Senior Staff become knowledgeable about possible outcomes	Ongoing
Website is compliant with statutory regulations	Dedicated staff member to update and maintain websites	Administrative time	Information available to all electronically Compliant	Ongoing
Ensure information in SEN reviews is accessible to all parties	Provide a choice of formats for parents and carers.	Administration time	Parents and carers have choices about how they are communicated with and how they provide their points of view	Ongoing

## Appendix 4

### Access Statement:

Arrangements for physically disabled persons using Dartington Church of England Academy.

This appendix to the school accessibility plan is designed to outline a solution for the difficult issues faced by physically disabled persons using the premises or Dartington Church of England Academy.

Currently Dartington Church of England Academy has pupils in attendance with some medical disabilities and visual impairments that require extra support from adults whilst manoeuvring around the school site, but no physical disabilities.

The school's EYFS building within the premises is fully catered and designed to accept and be accessible for any disabled person, including toilets and changing facilities. Entrance to the EYFS area is fully accessible but there are raised areas within the provision for the children to access areas of play. Dartington Academy are confident that access to these areas would be achieved with very little changes due to both the high level of training received by our employees in being able to adapt to teach the full spectrum of primary aged pupils.

Finally, where possible, any visits to the premises by a physically disabled person, whether this be a parent, an official (i.e. Ofsted Inspector) or a general visitor would be accessible for all due to the single level flooring to all areas of the building. The only outside area that is harder to access is the forest school tent which has bark covered flooring. There is a slope going down to this for disability access but provisions would be made by the Academy in this situation to ensure that access was successful.

### Details of Amendments:

March 2021	New Policy to reflect academy conversion.