



# Accessibility Policy 24-25

## Aims

Schools 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.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities, and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

## **At Cedar Mount Academy:**

We are an inclusive school with high expectations of all our pupils. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children:

- Girls and boys
- Minority ethnic and faith groups
- Children who need support to learn English as an additional language.
- Children with special educational needs and / disabilities
- More able children
- Vulnerable children
- Children with protected characteristics

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

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan.

## 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 his 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. Schools 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.



## Participation in the Curriculum

At Cedar Mount Academy all pupils have access to a full, broad, and balanced curriculum and the school is committed to overcoming potential barriers to learning for pupils with a disability. The Academy provides resources, auxiliary aids and equipment and support to ensure that pupils are fully able to access the curriculum. Pupils with a disability can fully participate in out of school visits, after-school clubs, and cultural activities. The school also seeks and follows advice on the provision of resources, aids, and support, from the BFET Educational Psychologists, specialist teachers, Therapists and Health Professionals. Support staff are deployed according to individual pupil's needs. Training is given to all staff to teach and support pupils with a disability.

## Physical Environment of the School

The Academy has taken account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments:

- Within the main school building there are wide corridors providing good disabled access to all ground floor and first floor and second floor areas.
- There are two lifts, accessible from opposing ends of the building.
- There is a lowered desk in reception to provide easy access for visitors in wheelchairs.
- All rooms have good access from the main corridors.
- All access to outside spaces is wheelchair accessible.
- There are disabled toilets on every floor and a designated hygiene suite on the ground floor.
- Cedar Mount Academy will make reasonable adjustments to enhance access to the main building in line with current regulations.

## Availability of Accessible Information

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

## Linked Policies

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related Academy documents and policies including:

- School Improvement Plan
- SEND Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policies

At Cedar Mount Academy we will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to aid a prospective, or existing, pupil or member of staff, which might include:

- Installing specialist resources and equipment
- Ensuring relevant training is undertaken.





	<p>Ensure there is an up to date, emergency evacuation plan for all disabled pupils.</p> <p>Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in evacuation.</p>	
<b>Written Information</b>		
<p>Provision of information in a range of formats</p>	<p>Review information to parents/carers to ensure it is accessible to all. Provide information and letters in clear print and clear language.</p> <p>The school office will sign post parents and carers to services who will support them in the completion of forms. Information available in some languages, or bilingual staff to speak directly to parents/carers.</p> <p>The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA for converting written information into alternative formats.</p>	<p>As detailed in the schools Single Equality action plan.</p> <p>CMA will ensure the appropriate use of interpreters as and when required.</p>