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Company Registration Number: 10745840 (England and Wales)

Engage Academy

Accessibility Plan

June 2023



Nurturing inclusive learning communities



1	Summary	To ensure statutory duties towards ensuring the fullest possible access to the school provision.			
2	Responsible person	Alison Ward			
3	Accountable ELT member	Alison Ward			
4	Applies to	All staff			
5	Trustees and/or individuals who have overseen development of this policy	Alison Ward, Adam Davies			
6	Headteachers/Service Heads who were consulted and have given approval (if applicable)	Executive Leadership Team			
8	Ratifying committee(s) and date of final approval	Executive Leadership Team			
9	Version Number	1.5			
10	Available on	Every	Y/N	Trust Website Academy Website Staff Portal	Y/N Y/N Y/N
11	Related documents (if applicable)	Risk assessment policy, health and safety policy, Equality information & objectives, SEN information report, Supporting pupils with medical needs policy			
12	Disseminated to	All staff			
13	Date of implementation (when shared)	7 July 2023			
14	Date of next formal review	30 June 2026			
15	Consulted with Recognised Trade Unions	Y/N			

Date	Version	Action	Summary of changes
30/6/2023	1.5	Amendments/general review	To include additional ramp, change in First Aid staff.

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1. 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.

Ethos Academy 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 overarching aim of Ethos Academy Trust is to create academies that provide environments that are welcoming, caring, calm, safe and purposeful and that, within a nurturing ethos, stretch our learners academically, support them pastorally and develop them socially and emotionally.

We seek to explore and celebrate the qualities that make our pupils unique. We believe passionately that education, at every stage of the pupil journey, is about the development and nurture of the whole child. We aspire for all our pupils to become confident, happy and caring individuals who achieve personal success and develop a love of learning and of life.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our 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, including advice from the local SEND Assessment and Commissioning Team and Human Resources. It should be used in conjunction with the Equalities Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy and the School Development Plan.

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

We have included a range of stakeholders in the development of this accessibility plan, including pupil and parental voice, Trustees and the staff team.

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 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.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every **3** years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

It will be approved by the Executive Leadership Team.

4. Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy;
- Health and safety policy;
- Equality information and objectives (public sector equality duty) statement for publication;
- Special educational needs (SEN) information report;
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy.

Appendix 1a: Action plan: Engage Academy

This action plan sets out the aims of our accessibility plan in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Aim	Current good practice <i>Include established practice and practice under development</i>	Objectives <i>State short, medium and long-term objectives</i>	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by	Success criteria
<p>Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability</p>	<p>Engage Academy offers a differentiated curriculum for children of all abilities and uses differentiated resources to ensure pupils are able to access the curriculum fully</p> <p>Individual pupil outcomes (as identified on MSPs and EHCPs) are also carefully planned for to ensure all pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>We use resources tailored to the needs of pupils who require support to access the curriculum.</p>	<p>Pre-referral information collation and early Annual Review (if EHCP) to ascertain current attainment. Arrangements for working with other agencies should be pursued between school and all stakeholders so that all information is shared and collective responses to need are established. Judgement made to appropriate group placement. Bespoke curriculum offer available.</p>	<p>Appropriate CPD opportunities for all staff, organised by SLT or individually by staff following identified training needs in Performance Management reviews.</p> <p>Cascading of information following CPD to relevant department staff/individuals.</p>	<p>SLT Line Managers Staff SENDCo</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout academic year.</p> <p>Annual appraisal cycle to be observed</p>	<p>Staff are up skilled, reflected in audits, and monitoring.</p> <p>Improved pupil outcomes.</p>

	<p>Curriculum resources include examples of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Pupils are grouped sensitively according to their academic and SEMH needs.</p> <p>Curriculum progress is tracked for all pupils, including those with a disability.</p> <p>Targets are set effectively and are appropriate for pupils with additional needs.</p> <p>The curriculum is reviewed at least annually.</p>					
<p>Improve and maintain access to the physical environment</p>	<p>The school is on one floor all three classes have entry points that enable wheelchair users to have easy access from the school car park and outside play areas. The environment has previously had some adaptations to cater to the needs of pupils as required.</p> <p>This includes:</p>	<p>Site manager and external contractors to review physical building and access points at least annually. Weekly staff briefing to include Health and Safety updates to highlight and report known issues, which are</p>	<p>Regular Health and Safety audits undertaken to identify good practice and areas for improvement.</p> <p>SENDCo to assess pupils with EHCPs and need for transport funding.</p>	<p>SLT Line Managers Staff SENDCo Health and Safety lead.</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout year.</p>	<p>Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustment to accommodate the needs of individual pupils. Staff have relevant knowledge of pupils in their class and can adjust teaching and learning</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ramp built for the portakabin which holds the office and library • Disabled parking bay • Disabled toilets and changing facilities • Portable ramp available for single steps outdoors to enable wheelchair access <p>We endeavour to provide transportation into school via appropriate methods, (taxi/taxi with wheelchair access if required and three school minibuses to facilitate independent travel.)</p> <p>Access to all areas is clear and unobstructed.</p> <p>All classrooms and work areas provide enough space for all pupils with disabilities to move about freely and ensure that toilet facilities are within proximity and are accessible.</p>	<p>then to be passed onto site manager.</p> <p>Seek advice from external agencies in relation to specific needs of pupils following referral to ensure compliance and reasonable adjustments are implemented.</p> <p>Daily visual inspection of work areas by staff to ensure unobstructed access to resources.</p> <p>Defibrillator onsite.</p> <p>Annual inspection of equipment First aiders to be trained in</p>	<p>SENDCo to liaise with health to ensure health care plans and advise is up to date, in place and all staff have been informed and have the relevant knowledge and understanding to support and implement.</p> <p>Staff trained in use of a defibrillator.</p>	<p>SLT/ Health and Safety lead</p>		<p>styles according to the pupil profiles.</p> <p>Staff have relevant safety knowledge to be able to support pupil or adult in need of a defibrillator.</p>
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	<p>Clear signage throughout the building to direct and inform.</p> <p>Public use defibrillator inspected annually and identified first aiders trained in its use.</p> <p>Some pupils have specific equipment and setting arrangements which need to be implemented in a mainstream setting. We ensure a smooth transition occurs to their next school placement and implement existing ways of working.</p>	<p>accordance to recommended timescales.</p> <p>Arrange meeting to focus on accessibility for children with a range of learning/ behavioural / needs.</p>				
<p>Improve the delivery of information to pupils with a disability</p>	<p>Staff are welcoming and regularly invite parents and visitors into school.</p> <p>Staff have high expectations while remaining realistic about written responses and are attuned that pupils can</p>	<p>Parents have additional opportunities to meet with key staff to share information.</p> <p>Parents are contacted through additional media alongside phone</p>	<p>Parent information display area with current SEND advice sign posting local support networks e.g.' child trust, SENDIAS,</p> <p>Have parent/carer handbook</p>	<p>SENDCo</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>All staff</p>	<p>September 2024</p>	<p>Improved accessibility to information for all stakeholders.</p>

	<p>sometimes demonstrate rather than explain.</p> <p>Tasks are repeatedly explained / presented in different ways to groups and individuals.</p> <p>Use of visual timetables to help sequence daily activities.</p> <p>Staff enable all pupils to show interest, knowledge and skills despite possible difficulties with communication.</p> <p>Staff are vigilant in looking for signs of failing confidence and low self-esteem and offer timely support where needed.</p> <p>Staff challenge negative attitudes in other pupils.</p>	<p>calls and letters such as email and texts, home visits, additional school meetings supporting parents that are working and/or find it difficult to communicate by phone and/or letter.</p> <p>Parents are invited to joint parent child sessions to support communication with home and understanding of needs for the pupil and family.</p>	<p>translated if needed.</p> <p>Appropriate CPD opportunities for all staff, organised by SLT or individually by staff following identified training needs in appraisal reviews.</p>			
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Appendix 1b: Accessibility audit: Engage Academy

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	1 storey building	Annual inspection of all spaces to ensure condition of stairways is maintained.	Site Manager	Annually
Corridor access	All corridors are accessible for wheelchairs and wide enough for manoeuvre	Corridors to be tidy and free from obstructions	All Engage Academy staff	Daily observations
Parking bays	1 designated disabled bay 22 marked bays 3 minibus bays	Staff and visitors to ensure that they reverse into appropriate parking bays and ensure disabled bay is left available for those who require it.	Site manager All staff All visitors	Ongoing daily observations
Entrances/doors	8 accessible entrances to the site, all electronically/magnetically fobbed for security. Only staff have access fobs. Wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users.	Annual inspection (minimum) of all fobbed doorways to ensure correct operation. Mechanical failures/issues to be raised at weekly staff meetings under Health and Safety or Site manager	Site manager/external contractor All staff Site Manager	Annually at minimum When faults arise
Ramps	There is one fixed accessibility ramp leading to the school reception and library and a portable ramp to fit all the	Annual inspection of surface to ensure wear and tear is minimised. To be kept clear of obstructions.	Site manager Site manager/all staff	Annually at a minimum Daily checks

	playground steps from the external doors.			
Toilets	1 accessibility toilet 2 pupil toilet rooms 3 staff/visitor	The accessibility toilet is located in the main school building next to Otters room.	Cleaning staff Site manager	Daily
Reception area	Accessed via a ramp leading to a fobbed door (for staff) or bell for visitors.	Business support staff to ensure all documentation is checked and correct lanyards distributed. Ensure all staff and visitors sign in and out and are made aware of fire evacuation procedures, DSLs within school and other relevant information pertaining to visit	All business support located in main reception	Daily
Internal signage	All key areas signed clearly around the site, both internally and externally.	Ensure that all signage is maintained and any deterioration reported	Site Manager	At least annually and when reported throughout the year.
Emergency escape routes	9 identified fire escape routes located across the site and clearly labelled. Floor plans in key positions clearly identify nearest exit to use.	Ensure that all fire escape signage and routes are maintained and kept clear of obstacles. Issues with any of the fire doors or signage to be reported to site manager	Site Manager All staff	At least annually and when issues are reported.