

# Every Child Matters Academy Trust

## Accessibility Plan 2024-2027

*The terms Trust and School (and levels within e.g. governors and trustees) are interchangeable and apply to all schools within the Trust*

### **Vision Statement**

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils, staff, parents or visitors because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan will be reviewed every 3 years or where operational needs dictate and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the Finance Committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

We are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

### **Aims:**

Our Aims are:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs
- To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils, staff, parents and other members of the school community with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.
- Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

- 1) The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governing Body’s Finance Committee. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

- 2) We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
- 3) Our Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff, parents and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

## **The Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:**

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, adapting the curriculum as necessary. This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, sports events, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010).
  - Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
  - Where needed, adapt the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include adaptations to hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4) Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
  - 5) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
    - Health & Safety Policy
    - Special Educational Needs Policy
    - Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Policy
    - Educational Visits Policy
  - 6) The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the school, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.
  - 7) Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

### **Current good practice**

We gather information about any disability or health condition in early communications with parents and carers of children who are new to school. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided.

### **Physical Environment**

The aim is to continue to enhance the environment to meet the needs of all pupils and ensure that they have access to all aspects of education. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical needs.

### **Curriculum**

Through planning for individual need, we aim to provide as inclusive an approach as practically possible. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible. The SENCo provides additional support for pupils and supports teachers in implementing strategies for improving pupils' access to learning.

The school works closely with specialist services including:

- ❖ Educational Psychology service
- ❖ Integrated Inclusion Services
- ❖ Occupational Therapists and physiotherapists
- ❖ Speech and Language Therapy

### **Information**

Different forms of communication are made available as needs are identified to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is provided in a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff as needed.

### **Access Audit**

The main school building is not a new build and some of the buildings date back to the 1950's. Four classrooms are on first floor level and there is no elevator access, only stairs. Therefore these classrooms would not be accessible to someone with limited mobility and this is taken into consideration when deciding which classroom is to use for each class on an annual basis.

There are two small sets of stairs at ground floor level on entry to the school and these are served by two platform lifts. There are stairs further up the school corridor at ground level which are not served by a platform lift. However these stairs can be circumnavigated by entering the building through an external fire door.

The EYFS building is a separate building built more recently. All areas of this building are on ground floor level with wide doors and allow disabled access.

On-site car parking for staff and visitors includes two dedicated disabled parking bays.

There are disabled toilet facilities available.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. PEEPS are written and in place for children and adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

### **Management, coordination and implementation and review**

- We consult with other professionals and services when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- The Governors and Senior Leadership Team work closely with the Local Authority.
- We work closely with parents to consider their children's needs.

### **Complaints**

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Headteacher. The SEND governor or chair of governors may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

Approved by the Resources Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ 21st March 2024 \_\_\_\_\_



Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ CEO: \_\_\_\_\_

## Action Plan

### Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs. Provision may include: Liaison with specialists, CPD for staff, a differentiated curriculum, specialist resources to support learning and access to the curriculum, a range of support staff including trained teaching assistants and access arrangements in place for statutory testing.

Targets	Strategies	Responsibility	Time Scale	Success Criteria
To monitor the planning and delivery of the taught curriculum to ensure appropriate differentiation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs Sanderson to oversee the monitoring of literacy and numeracy short term planning and LMT to monitor Medium term plans</li> </ul>	HT	Ongoing	The needs of all children will be met.
Further development of the break down of barriers to learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class teachers to note any causes of concern on appropriate form and inform HTs. Pupil progress meetings evidence or when necessary through the year, learning mentor and or PSA to be involved.</li> </ul>	HT	Ongoing	Children who have social, emotional aspects of learning are supported through appropriate body e.g. Learning Mentor, PSA.
To monitor the effectiveness of Intervention Programmes and LSA support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse data and track pupils' progress.</li> </ul>	SENCO	Part of the pupil progress meetings and Senco analysis	Children taking part in intervention programmes to have made satisfactory/good progress.
To continue development of the CPD of Class Teachers and LSA's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To match needs to appropriate training.</li> </ul>	HT SENCO	Ongoing – when appropriate	All staff to gain knowledge of how to deal with any form of disability or barrier to learning.
Continue to increase awareness amongst parents, staff and governors of the SEN & Equality Act 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Handbook</li> <li>Governors' Report</li> <li>Inclusion Policy</li> </ul>	HT and D/HT	On-going	Raised awareness of the SEN and Equality Act 2010. All stakeholders to know that we are a fully inclusive school.
To continue to develop systems and procedures for involving support staff in the delivery of Intervention/support programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support staff to develop their ability to deliver intervention programmes through internal training.</li> </ul>	LMT SENCO	Ongoing  Ongoing	Identified children given effective support in their learning with improvements in both attainment and achievement. Time to be allocated for the writing of IEPs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time given for CT and LSA to write IEPs for children identified as requiring SEN intervention.</li> </ul>			
To keep Vulnerable Children's Register updated and carry out annual audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin staff to add new pupils on to register as necessary in line with protocols.</li> <li>• All staff to carry out audit of VCR every term</li> </ul>	D/HT	On-going	Identified children given effective support in their learning with improvements in both attainment and achievement.