SPARK EDUCATION TRUST

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THE LINKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

NOVEMBER 2026

Policy Date: November 2026
Review Cycle: November 2029
Responsible Body: Head of School

Version Control

Review Date	Updates
V1 September 2025	Legislation and good practice updates
V2 November 2026	Review of legislation and guidance, update of format

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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 because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation". According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

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

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/50/contents
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25?1763207324049

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. At The Links Primary School, the Plan will be monitored by the Head of School and evaluated by the Local Governing Body. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At The Links Primary School, we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all pupils can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that pupils 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 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

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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. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Local Governing Body. 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. The Links Primary School is 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. The Links Primary School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

   The Links Primary School 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, 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.

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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
   - SEND Policy
   - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medication Policy
   - Education Visits & School Trips 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 pupils who are new to school. For parents/carers of pupils already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided. Additionally, we work closely with the support of Occupational Therapy (OT) and incorporate bespoke sensory-based interventions. Dedicated sensory spaces are provided to ensure pupils have access to calming and regulating environments when needed. These spaces are available both at the start of the day and throughout the school day, supporting accessibility and enabling some pupils to engage more effectively with learning. Where we have pupils with hearing impairments (HI) or visual impairments (VI), we work in partnership with the STARS service. This collaboration supports the development of tailored plans and ensures that provision is appropriately adapted to meet individual needs. The STARS service also undertakes site audits, enabling us to remain fully compliant with accessibility requirements and to provide an environment that is responsive to the specific needs of each child.

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Physical Environment

There are no areas of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extracurricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible.

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. We seek advice and support from the relevant professionals in order to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments.

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 school is housed in one single story building. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby and has easy access to the office, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. Whilst we acknowledge that with pupils entering and exiting the building from a variety of points, around the school, could potentially present challenges moving around the external parts of the school, we make reasonable adjustments as the need arises. The school has dedicated visitor parking at the front of school. Visitors to the school can use on-street parking. There is disabled toilet facility in our building which is fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Personalised Evacuation Plans are put in place as required.

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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 Trust
- We work closely with parents to consider their pupils' needs
- The policy is reviewed every three years and/or as pupils' needs change
- Policy reviews are shared with staff
- We make links with other schools to share best practice through regular SENCo network meetings and other communications as needed

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 Head of School. The Chair of Governors may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

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	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To liaise with preschool providers to prepare for the new intake of pupils into Foundation Stage each year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	May to July annually	Head of School EYFS Leader and teachers	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To liaise with Educational establishments to prepare for the intake of new pupils who transfer within year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	Ongoing as need arises	Head of School & SLT/SENCo	Provision set in place ready for when the child/ren start school
To review policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	Head of School & Governors	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure

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To establish and maintain close liaison with parents	To ensure collaboration and information sharing between school and families.	Ongoing	SLT and all teaching staff	Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning
To establish and maintain close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with additional needs	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel.	Ongoing	SLT/SENCo, all Teaching staff and outside professionals	Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning
To include pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs as fully as possible in the wider curriculum including trips and residential visits as well as extracurricular provision	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo and all teaching staff, extracurricular service providers and educational visits settings	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made

Aim 2

To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
Improve the physical school environment	The school will take account the needs of pupils with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting and colour schemes, clear signage and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SLT, Estate Manager Paul Bridge and Governors	Evidence that appropriate considerations have been made wherever physical school improvements are carried out.
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs	Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training when needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.	Ongoing	SLT, SENCo, all teaching staff and Caretaker	As full as possible inclusion for all pupils. Safe evacuation in an Emergency.

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Aim 3

Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	Create and offer information in alternative formats Access arrangements are considered and put into place for statutory testing	Ongoing	SLT, teachers, admin team and SENCo	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made
Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for parents with a disability, medical condition or other access needs so as they can fully support their child's education.	Adopt a proactive approach to identifying the requirements of parents and make reasonable adjustments when possible	Ongoing	Whole school team	Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made, so that parents can fully support their pupils in their education.

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Map of School



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