

Accessibility Policy

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1. Aims of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to show how The Vale Academy intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our academy for disabled pupils.

A disability is described under the Equality Act 2010 as ‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision they will also be covered by the SEN policy.

The policy aims to:

- Improve access to the curriculum.

Individual arrangements will be made to ensure that students with SEN and/or disabilities will be able to access the curriculum by making any reasonable adjustments that will enable students to benefit from the education provided at The Vale Academy.

- Improve the physical environment of the academy.

We are currently in the process of having a new build, which will be fully DDA compliant. We currently have full disabled access to all of our facilities (in some cases, where the lifts are used, access is via classrooms). We have ensured that there are sufficient washroom facilities within each building specifically designed for disabled users. All students with medical needs have medical needs plans. The Academy will continue to take in to account the needs of its students, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and other impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.

- Improve access to information

Information may be delivered to students with SEN and/or disabilities in a different way than that normally provided in writing to other students if it is necessary and reasonable (i.e. braille, large text).

Parents are regularly involved in reviewing provision for their child and students are also consulted. Information can be shared in various formats upon request. Including translated information.

If students or parents have difficulty accessing information normally provided in writing then we are happy to consider alternative forms of provision.

2. Related Documents

Associated documents include:

- SPTA Equality Policy
- SPTA HS01 Health and Safety Policy
- TVA Admissions Policy
- TVA Behaviour For Learning Policy
- TVA Curriculum Policy
- TVA SEN Policy

This accessibility plan is drawn up in accordance with the Equality Act (2010) and the SEN and Disability Act (2010).

3. Plan

	Targets	Strategies	Timeframe	Lead
Short Term	Maintain access arrangements for the curriculum and information.	Staff aware of individual needs (via student passport) and can differentiate accordingly.	In place	SJH & MRU
	Enable all students to access visits and extra-curricular events.	Ensure transport arrangements for visits are appropriate and extra-curricular events are adjusted as required.	Ongoing	CLs & GW
	Ensure building and access aids are well maintained & fully functional.	Ongoing maintenance & routine inspections.		GW & APW
Medium Term	Ensure effective move to the new build.	Mitigate any access issues when transitioning from current to new build.	December 2016 – March 2017	APW & GW
	Ensure website is compliant with statutory requirements.	Routine audits and regular updates.	Ongoing	SLT
Long Term	Audit of new facility to ensure it delivers full and compliant access. Adapt the accessibility plan accordingly.	Inspection of facilities based on the current needs of all users of the Academy.	January 2017 – February 2019	MRU & APW