

Accessibility plan, 2024-27

Section 1: Vision statement

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to show how Thistley Hough Academy intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils. Thistley Hough Academy 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.

Definition of Disability

According to the Equality Act 2010, a person has a disability if:

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

Legal Background

Under the Equality Act 2010 all schools must have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation including the DDA. The effect of the laws is the same as in the past, meaning that 'Schools cannot lawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation'.

This plan has been drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and in conjunction with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school and will advise other school planning documents.

This Accessibility Plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of our school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum; which includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school, such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits;
- Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Equality Objectives
- Equality Policy
- Staff Development Handbook

- Health and Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Academy Development Improvement Plan

The Academy's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility plan.

Staff Development

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.

Plan Availability

The school makes the Accessibility Plan available in the following ways:

- A copy is posted on the school's website
- Paper copies are available from the front office

Review and Evaluation

It is a requirement that our accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Below is a set of action plans showing how Thistley Hough Academy will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The plan is valid for three years, 2024-2027. It is reviewed annually.

Approved by: Michelle Lawrence and Simon Harrison

Date: 06/01/25

Next review date: 07/01/2026

Section 2: Aims and objectives

Our aims are to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

The table below sets out how the school will achieve these aims.

Aim	Objectives <i>State short, medium and long-term objectives</i>	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by	Success criteria
Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability.	Training for specific staff, including medical, to ensure that they are appropriately skilled to meet the diverse needs represented within the community.	<p>Identification of training needs based upon children presently in school.</p> <p>Identification of staff to undertake training.</p> <p>Release time for staff and opportunities to discuss and embed training upon return.</p>	CHO	July 2024	<p>Staff trained to deal with specific pupil needs.</p> <p>Feedback from training demonstrates a deeper understanding of specific pupil needs and interventions required.</p> <p>Intervention tracking shows that specific pupils are making progress.</p>
	Raise level of support and provision for pupils with Dyslexia and Dyscalculia.	<p>Investment in diagnostic tools to improve identification of pupils.</p> <p>Raising of teacher's awareness through training and support.</p> <p>Simplify referral process for all students who show any traits.</p> <p>Investment in resources to support pupils with Dyslexia/Dyscalculia – Dyslexia friendly books, coloured overlays, online resources etc.</p>	SOS	September 2024 but reviewed HTly	<p>Higher number of pupils identified and using materials.</p> <p>Data for these pupils shows increased levels of progress, particularly in reading/math.</p> <p>Data from interventions shows student progress in relevant areas.</p>

	Develop the use of specific resources, including innovative materials and technology to enhance the provision for pupils with a variety of physical, emotional and educational needs.	Explore the use of various resources to help pupils access learning alongside their peers, including ear defenders, pencil grips, fiddle toys, etc.	SOS	January 2025	Pupil feedback identifies positive aspects of modified resources/materials across the curriculum.
		Introduction of Sensory Circuits and other sensory resources to support autistic pupils, and pupils with sensory processing difficulties, in accessing the curriculum.	SOS	January 2025	Pupils accessing high quality interventions. Pupil attendance data for access to the Success Room provision. These pupils making greater progress across the curriculum.
	Develop Intervention Room (Success Room) to support pupils with a wide variety of disabilities and learning needs, including sensory difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders.	Resourcing of relevant equipment for the Success Room. Timetabling focused on pupil need and reviewed regularly. Training provided where required. Monitoring of provision.	SOS	January 2025	Interventions more effective – data supports this for specific interventions. Staff confident in delivery of programmes, interventions revised and refined regularly to improve quality. Teachers able to see impact of interventions in classrooms and this is reflected in attainment data.
Improve and maintain access to the physical environment.	Audit classroom environments to ensure learning opportunities are maximised for pupils with disabilities, e.g. visual impairments, hearing impairments, other SEND.	Development of classrooms reflects need of pupils in class as well as potential unidentified needs.	All teaching staff and TA's. MLA	September 2024 but reviewed HTly	Pupils, parents, teachers able to identify positive impact on learning of specific changes. All students able to access and succeed in all curriculum subjects,

		<p>Classrooms audited for specific disabilities and individuals as appropriate.</p> <p>Class profiles and Pupil Passports clearly indicate a logistical need for specific students in relation to the physical environment, e.g. seating plan, changing facilities.</p>			as seen in student voice and in subject attainment data.
<p>Improve the delivery of written information to pupils.</p>	<p>Update signage around the school to reflect the current linguistic composition of the Academy.</p>	<p>Audit languages used within the school.</p> <p>Revise languages used on internal signage and Academy website.</p>	<p>MLA</p>	<p>December 2024</p>	<p>Signage reflects the needs of the community.</p> <p>Adapted according to changing needs, where necessary.</p>

Section 3: Access audit

Feature <i>For example:</i>	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	The school is on three storeys. Steps are required to access each floor.	Lift already in place. Maintenance and inspections are carried out in line with current legislation.	SHA/JBI	Yearly
	Steps are required to move between internal floors.	Alternative access is available with ramps. Monitor changing needs of staff, pupils.	SHA/JBI	Ongoing
Corridor access	All corridors are accessible for wheelchairs and wide enough for manoeuvre.	Health & Safety Learning walks carried out termly to ensure that areas remain clear and accessible.	SHA/JBI	Termly
Lifts	Lift located on each floor for access to all levels.	Maintenance and inspections are carried out in line with current legislation.	SHA/JBI	Yearly
Parking bays	Disabled parking bay available at front of school.	Monitor use. Additional bays to be allocated if required.	SHA/JBI	Ongoing
Entrances	Main entrance accessible, lift available, ramps available for entrance to hall.	None - accessible	SHA/JBI	Ongoing
Ramps	Moveable ramps available for wheelchair access. Ramped entrance created to car park.	None - accessible	SHA/JBI	As needed
Toilets	Disabled toilets available on each floor.	Regular checks for accessibility, cleanliness and damage.	SHA/JBI	Ongoing

Internal signage	Signage around the school is clear.	Refine languages used, see above.	SHA/JBI	Ongoing
Emergency escape routes	Emergency lighting throughout site. Signage on all exit routes. Exit doors clearly identified.	Maintenance and servicing of lights in line with current legislation. Health and Safety audit termly identifies all escape routes and signage are in order.	SHA/JBI	Ongoing.
	Fire evacuation plan in place and communicated.	Reviewed at least yearly.	SHA/JBI	Yearly