

Fairfield High School for Girls

Accessibility Plan



Approved by:	Full Trust Board	Date: September 2022
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Person Responsible:	School Business Manager	

Outstanding progress for all

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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 pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable pupils with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils with disabilities.

Our school 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 school will:

- Not treat pupils with disabilities less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- Make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- Plan, where possible, to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities.

This plan sets out Fairfield High Schools for Girls' proposals to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas below:

- To increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- To improve the physical environment to enable pupils with disabilities to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities services provided.
- To improve the availability of accessible information for pupils with disabilities.

Access to Buildings and Classrooms

The building is not fully accessible to all due to the issues around the buildings listed status.

A significant portion of the school site is easily accessible by pupils and visitors who have accessibility issues (wheelchair users etc.). A more detailed breakdown can be found below:

Area	Current Accessibility
Main Entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ramp allowing for wheelchair access, assisted front door installed September 2015.
Main Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All ground floor classrooms have either a flat or small stepped entrance. Some fire exits are stepped and therefore difficult for wheelchair access.▪ There are disabled toilets on the ground floor at each end of the school house.▪ Corridors, in the main, are wide enough for wheel chairs access.▪ Doorways are, in the main, wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, doors are not automatic so a 'buddy' system is adopted when necessary.
Upper Floors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The majority of first floor classrooms are accessed exclusively via staircases.▪ The Humanities/Maths Block has a disabled lift to the first floor allowing access to eight classrooms and one office.▪ The second floor is accessed exclusively via staircases.
Sports Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Entrance to the building is flat allowing for easy wheelchair access.▪ Classroom and the sports hall have flat floor entrances and wide doors with low handles.▪ A disabled toilet and shower is installed.▪ Dance Studio has an assisted front door.

- Lift to first floor Conference Centre.
 - Disabled toilets in Dance Studio.
- Canteen**
- Entrance is stepped making access more difficult from the main school corridor.
 - Access to the servery is clear and suitable for wheel chair users.
- School Field**
- Available for all pupils, no access restrictions of any kind.
- Linda's Garden**
- Garden can be accessed from the rear, however, the main entrance is stepped.

Evacuation Procedures

The school's Health and Safety Policy lays down basic procedures for the safe efficient evacuation of the school buildings.

These procedures will be adapted to meet the specific needs of an individual. Such procedures will be discussed with the pupils and parents/carers and additional support will be discussed fully in advance.

Refuge points are in place with emergency stair aids in the event of an evacuation where lit access is restricted.

Availability of Accessible Information for Pupils with Disabilities

Parents/carers are routinely involved in reviewing provision for their child. The pupil will also be involved depending on their ability and willingness to participate.

Large print format materials are available when and where required.

If either pupils or parents/carers have difficulty accessing information provided school will be happy to consider alternative forms of provision.

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

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan and works with Stockport Borough Council in relation to Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

Our school'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 staff, pupils, and Trustees of the school.

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 they have 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. Action Plan

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

Due consideration has been given around the issues of our listed building status.

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
Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability	<p>Our school offers a differentiated curriculum for all pupils.</p> <p>We use resources tailored to the needs of pupils who require support to access the curriculum.</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 to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.</p>					

<p>Improve and maintain access to the physical environment</p>	<p>The environment is adapted to the needs of pupils as required.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramps • Lifts • Corridor width where possible • Disabled parking bays • Disabled toilets and changing facilities • Library shelves at wheelchair-accessible height 					
<p>Improve the delivery of information to pupils with a disability</p>	<p>Our school uses a range of communication methods to ensure information is accessible.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal signage • Large print resources • Braille • Pictorial or symbolic representations if required 					

4. 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 Trust Board

5. Links with other Policies

This Accessibility Plan is linked to the following Policies and documents:

- Health and Safety Policy

Appendix 1: Accessibility Audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of storeys	Three in the older part of the building, two storey and single storey			
Corridor access	Corridors are compliant in most areas with the exception of the listed building			
Lifts	There is one lift			
Parking bays	We have a disabled parking bay			
Entrances	The entrance has automatic doors			
Ramps	There is a ramp to the main entrance			

Toilets	Toilets are accessible with disabled access at ground level			
Reception area	The Reception area is on the ground floor with access and an accessible signing in system			
Internal signage	We have internal signage			
Emergency escape routes	Emergency escape routes are clear in each room and accessible			