



Wilson Stuart School

A Special Academy



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

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Written by: Simon Harris

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Contents:

[Aim of the Accessibility Plan](#)

1. [The Accessibility Audit](#)
2. [Planning duty 1: Curriculum](#)
3. [Planning duty 2: Physical environment](#)
4. [Planning duty 3: Information](#)

Aims of the Accessibility Plan

This plan outlines how Wilson Stuart School aims to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the curriculum, physical environment and information).

A person is regarded as having a disability under the Act where they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This plan aims 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.

The above aims will be delivered within a reasonable timeframe, and in ways which are determined after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the views of parents and pupils. In the preparation of an accessibility strategy, the LA must have regard to the need to allocate adequate resources in the implementation of this strategy.

The governing board also recognises its responsibilities towards employees with disabilities and will:

- Monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with equal opportunities.
- Provide appropriate support and provision for employees with disabilities to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively without barriers.
- Undertake reasonable adjustments to enable staff to access the workplace.

The plan will be resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised in consultation with:

- Pupils' parents.
- The headteacher and other relevant members of staff.
- Governors.
- External partners.

This plan is reviewed **every three years** to take into account the changing needs of the school and its pupils. The plan is also reviewed where the school has undergone a refurbishment.

The Accessibility Audit

The governing board will undertake an **annual** Accessibility Audit. The audit will cover the following three areas:

- **Access to the curriculum** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to the physical environment** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the physical environment on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to information** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access information on an equal basis with their peers.

When conducting the audit, the governing board will consider all kinds of disabilities and impairments, including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Ambulatory disabilities** – this includes pupils who use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- **Dexterity disabilities** – this includes those whose everyday manual handling of objects and fixtures may be impaired
- **Visual disabilities** – this includes those with visual impairments and sensitivities
- **Auditory disabilities** – this includes those with hearing impairments and sensitivities
- **Comprehension** – this includes hidden disabilities, such as autism and dyslexia

The findings from the audit will be used to identify short-, medium- and long-term actions to address specific gaps and improve access.

All actions will be carried out in a reasonable timeframe, and after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the preferences of their parents. The actions that will be undertaken are detailed in the following sections of this document.

Planning duty 1: Curriculum

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review | Completion (Name and Date) |
|-------------|--|--|---------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Short term | Do you ensure that financial difficulties do not prevent pupils/students with SEND being included in activities and events | All trips currently need to be funded by parents due to school finances, though pupil premium individual funds can be used where necessary | TE & ND | Ongoing | All pupils can attend school trips | As part of educational Visits Policy Review and Pupil Premium expenditure review | All students are included in all events at Wilson Stuart and when we access the wider community. Parents continue to fully fund Educational Visits Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Medium term | Are pupils/students and their families fully involved in the review of individual plans regarding curriculum access? | Parents & Students asked in annual reviews to identify any additional access issues they are aware of | ED | Spring 2024 | Parents & Students feel there are no barriers to learning at Wilson Stuart | As part of the annual review process | All parents and students attend annual reviews where their progress and access to our curriculum is reviewed and then any |

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| | | | | | | | required adjustments are made |
| | | | | | | | Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Long term | | | | | | | |

Planning duty 2: Physical environment

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review |
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| Short term | Is accessible signage used, throughout the setting's environment, at all activities and events? | There is very little directional signage in school and we will need to research if additional signage is required | DH & CS | Spring 2024 | Additional signage which is accessible and tactile added to the school buildings | This is to be further reviewed to ascertain the type of signage required for all needs of the pupils and staff though there have been no concerns raised in relation to the current signage by any stakeholders. C Stevenson 17/10/2024 |
| Short Term | Are ramp surfaces slip resistant? | Tomkinson Tower ramp needs further non slip materials now it has aged | CS | January 2024 | Quotes to install non slip floor on decking in Tomkinson tower are very expensive. This will need to be reviewed as the tower requires annual upkeep. Tower is now barriered off to all person/s until futher review. | Review Tower for feasibility to maintain or remove. Tomkinson Tower remains closed at this time, but IMP have offered to recondition the facility, including the slippery surfaces as part of their CSR as this work is not affordable at this current time. C Stevenson 17/03/2024. |
| Short Term | Are direction or information signs (including means of escape) visible from both sitting and standing eye levels, and are they in upper and lower case, and | We will look at increasing the size of the evacuation maps to A3 for all rooms | RT | January 2024 | Larger evacuation maps in all rooms | To be carried out across site. A4 maps are in almost all rooms to direct visitors, aid escape and inform of position. C Stevenson 17/03/2024. |

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| | large enough type to be read by those with impaired vision? | | | | | |
| Short Term | Can the emergency call system in toilets be operated from floor level? | Adapted toilet by Primary Hall pull cord needs extending to floor but all other cords are to floor level | DH & CS | Spring 2024 | All pull cords reachable from floor level | Disabled toilet alarms are tested once a week. Records kept in the following location C:\Users\chriss\OneDrive - Education Impact Academy Trust\Premises\2023 - 2024\4. Emergency Lighting, Alarms and Fire Protection in excel form. Cords ordered to extend to floor level, once arrived, will then install. C Stevenson 17/03/2024. |
| Short Term | Is the building equipped to provide hearing assistance? | Consult RH (deaf member of staff) to get feedback on the facilities | SP & RH | Spring 2024 | Act on advice from RH and make the building more user friendly for people with hearing impairments | Any new facilities developed are done in collaboration with RH Simon Harris Nov 24 |

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| Medium term | Are highly visible markings used to ensure the safety of pupils/students with a visual impairment? | Staff supervision is required for ambulant pupils and more research will be completed through consultation with Priestley Smith | DH & CS with support from JG at PS | Summer 2024 | Add additional markings which are VI friendly around school | Reviewed as part of annual premises audit in H&S review group Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Medium Term | Can the door furniture/handles be easily operated/grasped? | It would be difficult to change all door handles to meet the needs of all of our students, but those who can't open doors would have support where required | DH & CS | Summer 2024 | Door handles are appropriate for all students who move around school independently | Review handles required when new students arrive each September Further automatic door areas have been identified and installed where access was difficult eg Top entrance / exit to modular building and forest school. Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Long term | Are calm low sensory areas available in the setting? | There may be a need to have further deregulation rooms for some students | DH & CS | Build into 2023-2028 Redevelopment plan | Deregulation spaces available throughout school | As part of annual premises audit in H&S review group Simon Harris Nov 24 |

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| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>Is any server/counter accessible to all users, including those with hearing impairments?</p> | <p>Counters will be reviewed for people in wheelchairs and for those with hearing impairments as they are replaced</p> | <p>DH & CS</p> | <p>Build into 2023-2028 Redevelopment plan</p> | <p>All counters accessible for wheelchairs and people with hearing impairments</p> | <p>As counters are replaced throughout school they will be adapted and made more accessible Simon Harris Nov 24</p> |
| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>Is car park adequately lit?</p> | <p>Route from Sixth Form Centre to Staff Top Carpark needs further lighting</p> | <p>DH & CS</p> | <p>Sept 2024</p> | <p>Alternative routes are available but some lighting to be put on outer walls in this area</p> | <p>All car park lighting to be checked and reviewed annually. Overflow car park, rear by 6th form centre and front car park well lit. Obtain quotes to install extra lighting on back road by Food classroom/Les Hayes Hall, but not a high priority space currently as low walking traffic in the dark C Stevenson 17/03/2024.</p> |
| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>Is approach and car parking identified by visual, audible and tactile information?</p> | <p>We will need to research what is required, but this has never been an issue raised previously</p> | <p>DH & CS</p> | <p>Sept 2024</p> | <p>Appropriate visual, audible and tactile information in place</p> | <p>To be reviewed when any additional building work is completed 17/10/2024 C Stevenson</p> |

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| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>For those progressing to other parts of the building is information provided by signs, supported by tactile information such as a map or model?</p> | <p>We need to establish what tactile signage we can add to the school and what impact it would have for our learners</p> | <p>DH & CS</p> | <p>Sept 2024</p> | <p>Appropriate visual, audible and tactile information in place</p> | <p>To be reviewed when any additional building work is completed 17/10/2024 C Stevenson</p> |
| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>Are Reception, Assembly rooms and meeting rooms fitted with an induction loop?</p> | <p>We do not have plans currently to install a hearing loop, but it can be added to our facilities development list</p> | <p>DH & CS</p> | <p>Sept 2024</p> | <p>Induction Loop installed in Reception, Halls and Meeting Rooms</p> | <p>Review when the need arises and funds are available. C Stevenson 17/10/2024</p> |
| <p>Long Term</p> | <p>If the door is power-operated does it have visual and tactile information?</p> | <p>Power doors are fob activated and do not need tactile information with our current staffing needs</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>NA</p> | <p>To be reviewed annually 17/10/2024 C Stevenson</p> |

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| Long Term | Are ramps and steps adequately lit? | The external ramp to the forest school will not be used in the dark | NA | NA | NA | NA |
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Planning duty 3: Information

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review |
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| Short term | Is everyone in your setting aware of the Equality Act 2010? | Training in Jan 2024 for all staff / add to induction PowerPoint | SP to allocate time and add to induction and SHa to deliver | January 2024 | Staff aware of the implications of the Equality Act 2010 | Built into induction programme for 2024/25 Simon Harris Nov 24 |

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| Short Term | Are your SEN Information Report and Accessibility Plan online and in hard copy (for those families who do not have internet access)? | Published on website, but we will also make hard copies available if requested | PK | January 2024 | Paper copies can be printed in Reception for parents if required | Latest version of Accessibility Plan is always on website so it can be printed off at any time |
| Short Term | Is information available in a variety of languages? | Website does not have translate feature currently. We have just piloted a WEDUC translation module which will become fully available in 2024 | RT & AD | Spring 2024 | Website and WEDUC messages are fully translated into all languages required by our parents | Translation feature of WEDUC now fully operational and website to have translate feature added in 2025 Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Medium term | Was your accessibility plan coproduced with children/young people with SEND, their families and other stakeholders? | We will send our new Accessibility Plan a part of a family survey in 2025 | SHa | Spring 2025 | Family feedback used to update Accessibility Plan | Coproduction work to be completed in Spring 2025 School Council and Parents to be consulted Simon Harris Nov 24 |

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| <p>Medium Term</p> | <p>Do you promote the 'SEND Information, Advice and Support Service' (SENDIASS) and the Local Offer</p> | <p>Birmingham SENDIASS has been in a position of significant change over the last 12 months. When it has settled back into an effective service, we will begin promoting it again on our website alongside the Local Offer link</p> | <p>TE</p> | <p>Spring 2024</p> | <p>Link to SENDIASS on school website when the organisation is fully operational</p> | <p>Link will remain live so no need for review Simon Harris Nov 24</p> |
| <p>Medium Term</p> | <p>Is information available in a variety of formats including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'easy read' - large print - symbols - audio? | <p>In school information is presented in the appropriate format for students, but we need to improve in this area for parents and will create a plan to establish which key documents need to be available in different formats</p> | <p>RP</p> | <p>Spring 2024</p> | <p>Key documents will be available online and in paper form in a variety of accessible formats</p> | <p>Further documents required to be reviewed annually Simon Harris Nov 24</p> |
| <p>Medium Term</p> | <p>Do you work with parent/carers and young people to ensure that your website is presented in a family friendly way?</p> | <p>Parent & Student website consultation in 2024 in relation to ease of access to key information</p> | <p>RP & RT</p> | <p>Spring 2024</p> | <p>Any feedback in relation to access is implemented on the website</p> | <p>Reviewed annually to check website remains fully accessible Simon Harris Nov 24</p> |

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| Long term | Are pupils/students involved in the recruitment of teaching assistants and other school staff? | Students currently involved in Senior Leader appointments, but we are planning to have pupil panels for Teachers and TAs moving forward | SP | Appointments for 2025/26 onwards | Students have an input in all recruitment into child facing roles | Implement from Sept 2025 Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Long Term | Do you signpost families without the internet to One Stop Shops and libraries to access information and the Local Offer? | We have not had a need to do this so far but if requested, our family support team would signpost parents to local facilities | KM / LB | If required | Families directed if required | Ongoing Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Long Term | Are there large-print versions of information about the building/activities available? | Review of key information documents by Priestley Smith staff | SP & JG | Sept 2024 | Key information is presented in larger print versions | Review whether any new information documents need larger print versions as they are created Simon Harris Nov 24 |
| Long Term | Is there braille information available for people with visual disabilities? | Review of key information documents by Priestley Smith staff | SP & JG | Sept 2024 | Key information is presented in braille when required | Review whether any new information documents |

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| | | | | | | need braille versions as they are created Simon Harris Nov 24 |
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