

Weatherfield Academy Special School

Accessibility Policy & Plan

Statement:	Accessibility plan
This statement was approved:	June 2024
This statement will be reviewed:	June 2025
Governor committee responsibility:	Full Governing Body

At Weatherfield Academy Special School we believe that everybody should have the opportunity 'to become the best person they can be.' Our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Pupils are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust, where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy young people will achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

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:

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

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.

Objectives

Weatherfield Academy Special 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 taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

The Weatherfield Academy Special School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers 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;
- 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;

- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include 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.

The Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will continue to recognise the need to raise awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

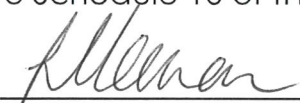
The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent 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.

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.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through Full governing Body Meeting.

The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Approved 

Date 20 / 9 / 24

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- **The Governing Body**
 - **Head Teacher**
 - **Health and Safety Team**
 - **School Finance Officer**
 - **Site Agent**
- Guidance is also sought from the Local Authority.**

The following pages show plans of the school buildings and site.

Weatherfield Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Physical Access

Access Report Ref.	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost
1.	Improve evacuation routes to muster point.	Ramps from fire exits in all primary rooms. Insert gate into wall in main playground and add railings to wall to improve security.		
2.	Relocate all teaching spaces into downstairs accommodation creating purpose built class with accessible outdoor access.	Implementation of plans in feasibility study.	Open, subject to funding	
3.	Widen door way between two parts of Primary Classes			
4.	Create secure internal disabled WC, entrance lobby with wide door			

Weatherfield Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Access Report Ref.	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost
1.	Learning environment	SENCO to lead review of learning environment from inclusive perspective using current guidance to establish an audit.	Summer 2019 – reviewed annually	Staff meeting time and SENCO release time compile findings and recommendations.
2.	Provision Maps	SENCO to lead updating of provision maps in 4 areas based around code of practice.	Summer 2019 – reviewed annually	Admin staff 2 hours per week ongoing.
3.	Resources	Class teachers to review organisation of access to resources in individual classrooms and ensure labels and signs are inclusive and promote independence.	Summer 2019 – reviewed annually	Work with H and S Site Agent to identify and order
	Resources	Maths leader to review resources used in Maths. Trial approaches to make more inclusive e.g. use of fewer more common resources e.g. all counters same size and colour for teaching one to one correspondence.	Summer 2019 – reviewed annually	Identify through research what is needed. Cost to be directed on a priority of need basis.

Weatherfield Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

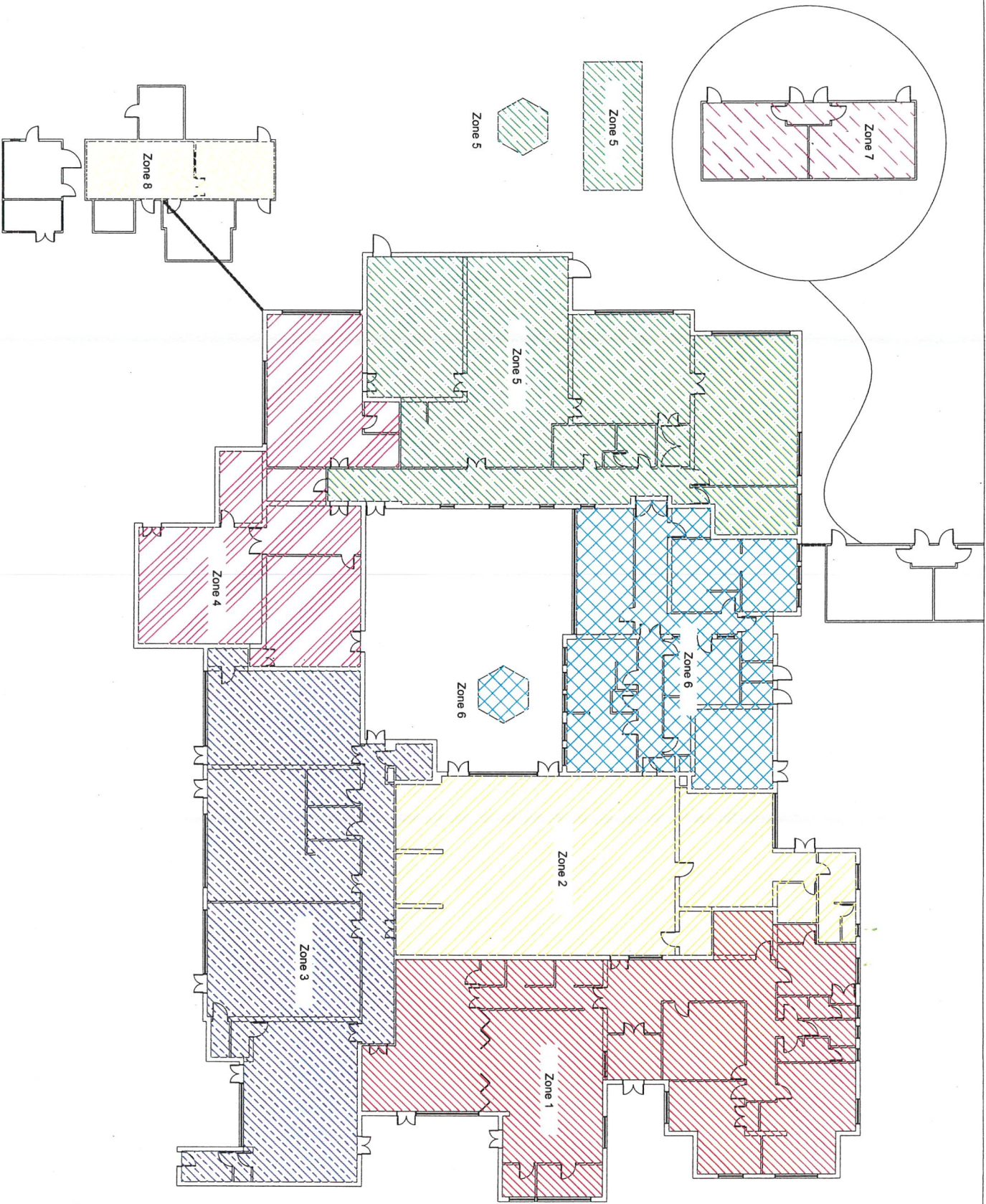
4.	Training & links	Provide appropriate and relevant ongoing training for all staff on matters of inclusion as appropriate further inclusive approaches.	Summer 2019 – reviewed annually	
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Weatherfield Academy

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Written Information Access

Access Report Ref.	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost
1.	Clear, straight forward and simple communication with parents and community	Information presented in variety of easy to access ways e.g. displayed in window for parents dropping off, sent via email, text and on school website. Language used is simple with any education terms/jargon avoided or clearly explained. Parent guides produced & parents sessions run for key areas e.g. phonics, new assessment. Admin & teaching staff aware of individual who may need information explaining directly or personally.	Summer 2019 and ongoing.	Write into the communication framework
2.	Access to info for pupils, parents, carers for who English is additional language.	Website translator	Autumn 2019	Website update with schools ICT team for website translator.
3.	More flexible/easier communication between home and school.	System from Parentmail to allow parents to leave messages 24 hours a day in different categories e.g. reporting absence, message for child's class teacher.	With immediate effect	Parentmail as a software tool to the Academy on an annual contract.



- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 4
- Zone 5
- Zone 6
- Zone 7
- Zone 8

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CLIENT: Weatherfield Academy

PROJECT: Weatherfield Academy
Brewers Hill Road
Dunstable

TITLE: Fire Alarm zone layouts

DATE:	SCALE:	PROJECT NO.:	DWG. NO.:
			HSE WS 001