



Accessibility Policy

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INTRODUCTION

This Policy has been drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995), as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by the DfS in July 2002.

DEFINITION

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995) defines disability as follows:

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

KEY OBJECTIVE

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum, and to facilitate full participation in the school community for students, and prospective students, with a disability.

PRINCIPLES

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and Equal Opportunity Policy, and the operation of Atrium Studio's SEN and Inclusion policy. Atrium Studio School recognises the duty it has to:

- Not discriminate against students with a disability in admissions and exclusions, provision of education and associated services.
- Not treat students with a disability less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- Make reasonable adjustments for students with a disability, so they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- Plan to increase access to education for students with a disability.

Where appropriate, Atrium Studio School will:

- Recognise and value parents'/carers' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respect their rights to confidentiality.
- Provide all students with a broad and balanced curriculum; differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual students and their learning styles.
- Set suitable learning challenges.
- Respond to students' diverse learning needs.
- Overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of students.

ACTIVITIES AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Atrium Studio School is committed to making the school environment as accessible as possible for all students, staff and visitors. The full site is DDA-accessible.

Education and related activities

In relation to accessing the curriculum, the school will continue to seek and follow the advice of the Local Authority services and outside agencies, such as the specialist teacher advisors, SEN consultants and appropriate health professionals. Included in this are examples such as expanding or adapting the curriculum offered to ensure that students with a disability are equally as prepared for life as able-bodied students. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school, such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. The school will use, where possible, the available resources (human and physical). Examples include offering assistance during assessments or exams, the use of aids and equipment (including assistive technology) and re-rooming lessons to the ground floor.

Physical Environment

The Atrium building has incorporated reasonable adjustments to its design where possible. These include lifts, ramps, wider staircases and corridors to allow for easier access; bright lighting and paint schemes to help visually-impaired students; and carpeting and acoustic tiling of classrooms to help hearing-impaired students.

Provision of information

Atrium Studio School will provide information to students, staff, parents and visitors in alternative formats when required, or requested within a reasonable timeframe.

School Transport

Devon Local Authority will make a decision to provide transport to and from Atrium Studio School on a case-by-case basis for a student with a disability. They will assess the student's needs when making a decision; taking into account their health and/or disability and age. Atrium Studio School will assess the needs of those students from outside the catchment area and make a decision about whether transport will be provided.

Home and Hospital

If a student is unable to go to school because of medical needs or health problems, the local authority has a responsibility to enable them to continue their education. This could be achieved through home and hospital provision, for example.

LINKED POLICIES

This Accessibility Policy will contribute to the review and revision of related policies, including:

- Curriculum
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Health and Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Behaviour
- School Improvement Plan

GOVERNOR MONITORING

This Accessibility Policy will be monitored through the Governing Body, and reviewed on a regular basis.