

Altrincham College

Draft Accessibility Strategy – 2014 to 2018

Updated by:

Date:

Approved by:

Date:

At Altrincham College we have created an inclusive community in which each person is respected and recognised as of equal value. We aim to ensure that everyone remains safe and stays healthy, whilst at the same time enjoys and achieves and makes a positive contribution to the wellbeing of the school community.

We are committed to the care and well-being of all students so that they may work and learn in a safe, secure environment. In all aspects of the school, the stakeholders (governors, staff, students, parents and the wider community) are committed to working together to ensure that the school community remains true to the equal value principle, underpinning all our policies.

Through a series of inter-related policies and procedures we support disability equality in all aspects of school life for students, staff and visitors. All new policies and protocols are carefully examined to ensure access and equality in diversity.

The school aims to provide a curriculum accessible to **all** its students, differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities and free from discrimination on any ground. This Strategy aims to ensure that, through careful planning, barriers to learning are, over a period of time, eliminated. Altrincham College has invested over previous years to ensure virtually the whole school site is accessible.

1. The Altrincham College Accessibility Strategy has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Academy. Other outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other Academy planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a four year period ahead of the next review date.
2. The accessibility strategy is structured to complement and support the Academy Single Equality Policy and will be published on the Academy website. We understand that the LA/EFA will monitor the Academy's activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.
3. Altrincham College 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 Academy.
4. The Altrincham College Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the Academy 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 disability, expanding the **curriculum** as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; (If an Academy 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 Academy such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school 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 Academy, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the Academy 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 handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the Academy and Academy events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
- 5 The Altrincham College Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.
- 6 Whole Academy training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
7. This Accessibility Strategy should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:
- Asset Management Plan
 - Behaviour Policy
 - Curriculum Policy
 - Emergency Evacuation Procedures
 - Single Equalities Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Race Equality Policy
 - Academy Prospectus
 - Academy Improvement Plan
 - Special Educational Needs Policy
- 8 The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the Academy, which was originally undertaken by the LA and subsequently updated by the Academy and remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility strategy and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the Academy 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.
- 9 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when Academy 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.
- 10 The Accessibility Strategy and Plan will be published on the Academy website.
11. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governors' Pastoral & Curriculum Sub-Committee.