



## Meadowdale Academy Accessibility Plan

<b>Accessibility Plan</b>	
<b>School Name</b>	Meadowdale Academy
<b>Address Details</b>	Hazelmere Avenue, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6HA
<b>School Ethos &amp; Responsibilities Awareness of Procedures</b>	
<p>As a school we are committed to delivering a learning environment which is accessible for any student regardless of disability or background. To do this we will deliver the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To differentiate the curriculum if needed and the encouragement of full participation in the curriculum if possible</li><li>• To convey information to pupils, parents and the community in different formats if needed using Braille, larger font, coloured paper or different languages</li><li>• Plans to improve the signage in the buildings and grounds in line with reasonable costs</li><li>• Arrangements to be put in place during school events (Parents Evenings, Shows) to accommodate disabled access</li><li>• A review of this policy on a yearly basis</li></ul>	
<b>Equality Act 2010</b>	
<p>The Equality Act of 2010 applies to all public bodies including schools and academies. It aims to eliminate discrimination based on all characteristics including race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. Specific to disabled accessibility it aims to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.</li><li>• Improve the physical environment of schools to enable those with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.</li><li>• Improve the availability of accessible information to those with disabilities.</li></ul>	
<b>Awareness of Procedures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disabled access is signposted in appropriate areas</li><li>• The Accessibility Plan is shared on the school website</li><li>• For visitors it is explained upon visitor arrival</li><li>• All staff and governors have been made aware of disabled access around the school</li></ul> <p>A copy of this plan has been posted on the main noticeboard in school so that it can be read</p>	
<b>Reasonable Adjustments</b>	
<p>A reasonable adjustment is a change or alteration that the school could make which would enable a disabled person to access the curriculum or access the school in an easier way. Reasonable adjustments must be offset with a cost which terms them reasonable or not.</p>	

Risk Assessment			
Hazard	Risk	Adjustment/Control	Monitoring
Disabled access at the front of the school.	At current there is no direct ramp down from the footpath at the front of the school to the main entrance which goes down a steep bank.	There is however a car ramp down into the main car park to a disabled space. This then would lead across flat ground to the main entrance. While this isn't ideal in the event of disabled access through the main entrance it does give a viable option to any disabled students/visitors. At no point are we suggesting that visitors within wheelchairs are to be simply driven down the road entrance. If decided as a reasonable adjustment then a ramp will be put into place on the main stair into the school.	This will be monitored by both the Headteacher and the Deputy Head as well as by the Health and Safety officer in the school. We have one student who might require access to a disabled ramp in the future however one student <i>isn't enough</i> to justify the installation of a ramp in addition to a staircase, especially when the road entrance is available for that student being dropped off in the morning.
Disabled access at the rear of the school.	The rear of the school is where the doors that the students use are situated. The doors all have very short steps to the classroom entrance so this allows for disabled access through.	Ramps have been purchased and put in situ to allow wheelchair access through both main outdoor doors to the yards.	Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer monitor ease and frequency of use.
Disabled access within lower school.	TAD area of the school is quite tight in terms of moving a wheelchair around. Corridors not being kept tidy and staff, students or visitors not being able to access certain areas.	At present there are no outstanding issues within the lower school. The only slight place of concern would be around the TAD areas where the classrooms are quite tight	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.

		for wheelchair use. These will be checked regularly	
Disabled access to upstairs within school.	Corridors not being kept tidy and staff, students or visitors not being able to access upstairs.	There is use of a lift for transporting wheelchairs upstairs. The same applies upstairs as downstairs. A case of keeping corridors and classroom areas maintained and tidy.	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.
Hearing impairment access within school.	Children with hearing impairment not being able to access the curriculum fully.	Use aids as and when provided by pupils. Look carefully at seating arrangements so to ensure hearing impaired pupils can see the teacher and engage with their peers.	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.
Disabled access to the curriculum.	Children not being fully able to access the curriculum due to a disability.	Curriculum is changed in subjects to allow disabled students to fully access it. SEND students are given any support when needed. See appendix 2.	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.
Disabled access in the event of a fire.	The evacuation of 254 students from around the school including those who have a disability, and not excluding the idea that they may be upstairs.	See Appendix 1	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.
Appropriate staff members have not been trained effectively	There are staff members who work one to one with certain students to help overcome and learning difficulties or	Relevant staff members have been trained in areas that they need to be. For example, the two staff members have been	Monitored by Deputy Head

		disabilities. Are these appropriately trained?	trained to use the EVAC chair in the event of a fire. Other staff members have been trained in other areas, such as phonics training, speed sounds etc which aids disabled learning across the curriculum.	
Movement of disabled staff, students and visitors within school.		Disabled staff, students and visitors risk being knocked in the corridors during lesson changeover, other times there is no risk.	Students with physical disabilities are released from their lessons 5 minutes early. This helps with their passage around the corridors. Staff with disabled visitors should be aware of lesson changeover.	Monitored by Deputy Head and Health and Safety Officer.
Transport of disabled students on visits		Disabled students having issues with buses. Wheelchair storage. Visit specific conditions.	As of now no specific arrangements have ever been needed however if this was the case then appropriate measures would be taken such as booking specific buses.	
No adjustments needed (Already in place)		Minor adjustments needed		Major adjustments needed

### **School Disability Improvement Plan Needs and Adjustments**

From the risk assessment carried out above the school is in line with most areas of what is expected. It does require intervention or investigation within:

- Hearing Impairment across the school.
- Disabled access to the rear of the school.
- Disabled access to the front of the school.

Hearing impairment: The school plans to look into this to see if any reasonable adjustments can be made. Any findings about the cost of this will be placed at the back of this plan. At current there are no hearing impairment facilities; however there are no children with hearing impairments.

Disabled access to the front of the school: Pupils can be driven into the car park and access the front entrance from there or enter from the gate nearest the park where there is a ramp. In time the school will investigate providing a ramp alongside the steps into reception however this must be at a reasonable cost.

### **School Complaints and Improvements Procedure**

Meadowdale Academy has an internal complaints procedure which should be used in the event of a complaint regarding the disabled access to the school. We as a school also recognise that disabled children and those with SEND needs may be susceptible to bullying therefore has plans in place to counteract this.