

# Friesland School – Accessibility Plan



Friesland School is an 11-18 Comprehensive School and part of the Two Counties Academy Trust. It aims to provide a World Class education in a caring environment, where the talents and success of **all** its students are celebrated.

## **Introduction**

Friesland School aims to provide a curriculum and environment accessible to all its students and employees personalised to meet individual needs and abilities free from discrimination on any ground. This plan aims to ensure that, through careful planning, barriers to learning are, across time, eliminated.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life.

Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that the school environment is as accessible as possible to all students, employees and other stakeholders. At Friesland School we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, work and visit here.

## **Our aims and objectives**

- To ensure that all students have equal access to a broad, balanced and personalised curriculum.
- To provide access to the curriculum for students with disabilities, without disadvantaging the education of other students of the school.
- To ensure that students and staff with disabilities can participate fully in extra-curricular activities, clubs and school visits.
- To continue to improve the physical environment of the school to enable students and staff with disabilities to take better advantage of facilities provided and to improve the availability of accessible information to any person with a disability.
- To challenge any negative attitude displayed in relation to disabilities and to continue to develop a culture of awareness, tolerance and acceptance.

At Friesland School we aim to increase the extent to which students and staff with disabilities can participate in the school curriculum by:

1. Monitoring those areas of the curriculum that are normally difficult for students with disabilities to access; where necessary, re-rooming to more easily accessible classrooms.
2. Further investigating what support and/or alternative approaches can be adopted to increase the choice/participation of students and staff with disabilities at the school including liaison with outside agencies, the Trust and the Local Authority.

Our school monitors the access to the curriculum for students with disabilities, personalising and expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students with disabilities are as equally prepared for life as all students in school. This does not just cover teaching but also includes the wider curriculum of the school, such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure activities and school visits.

It can also cover the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist students or staff in accessing the curriculum or the building.

The school continues to seek and follow the advice of the Local Authority Services, such as specialist teachers and appropriate health professionals.

### **Improving access to the school buildings**

We further aim to improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which students and staff with disabilities can take advantage of education and other services.

- Our building has been enhanced in recent years to provide the best possible environment for students, staff and visitors with disabilities, this includes disabled toilet facilities in most of our buildings and accessibility where possible to a hoist if required. This includes the Erewash Sports Centre that is not managed by the school but does have disabled facilities.
- Working alongside Derbyshire County Council, the school has also undertaken some major external work on the layout of the site to ensure that all areas are now wheelchair accessible to at least the lower floors which has included the threshold into the buildings.
- The school site consists of 7 separate buildings, including the daytime use of the onsite Erewash Sports Centre.
- There are 2 buildings that are on a single floor that are wheelchair accessible, however these blocks do not currently have disabled toilet facilities with no current plan in place to put these facilities into place due to the provision available elsewhere in the school.

- The other 5 buildings consist of a ground and an upper floor, with one building having 3 floors. There is a lift available in each building and/or each floor is accessible with the exception of the third floor in the Arts and Humanities building where there is currently no disabled access with the provision required to put this in place being extremely costly and difficult to put in place. The school manages this by ensuring that there are accessible classrooms in this block on the lower floors so that every subject can be taught without discrimination.
- These 5 buildings have disabled toilets which are only available on the ground floor; all toilets for the school are only available on the ground floor and the lifts make these accessible to all students.
- The school is currently liaising with DCC to complete alterations to the disabled toilet facilities in the course of 2019/20 which should see the refurbishment of one disabled facility to include a hoist, one disabled facility to include an extension fitted with a couch and lifting hoist, and the conversion of a staff toilet into a new disabled facility within humanities.
- Lifts can be operated by students, but only with the permission of a member of staff and after relevant training has been undertaken and a risk assessment produced if necessary.
- The doors to different blocks are very heavy and do not have automatic push button openings - therefore a member of staff is needed to support with the opening and closing of external doors. There is no plan at present to have automated doors installed.
- 2018/19 saw the completion of the school's brand new 3G astro facility in association with the Football Foundation. Access to this facility is fully disability compliant and planned usage includes the introduction of disability football for community use and a variety of access for other key groups within the community.
- A number of teaching and support staff have been 'wheelchair trained' by Derbyshire County Council and will support disabled students, employees and visitors to access the site as needed
- The school does have an EVAC chair which is available in three of the main blocks (SMT – Science, Maths and Technology, Sixth Form and Performing Arts) but there are currently none in the other buildings. This has been identified as a potential

Health and Safety concern and the school is currently exploring the purchase of Evac chairs in all areas of the school. The school is also ensuring that updates on training for staff in the use of Evac chairs will be carried out during the course of the year. Meetings planned for visitors with disabilities are conducted on the ground floor in meeting rooms to ensure a safe evacuation in case of emergencies.

- The school has 3 car parks and has 8 disabled parking bays for disabled staff and visitors, and also a disabled mini bus parking bay.
- Students with temporary mobility restrictions undertake a risk assessment plan with the Resource Centre Manager and with parent(s)/carer(s). This then ensures a coordinated approach for the right support.
- Relevant staff are made aware of specific known medical problems students have and are expected to take appropriate action in a sensitive and discreet manner.
- Planning and Risk assessments for visits take into account the particular needs of students with disabilities.
- The school does have a mini bus but this is not wheelchair accessible.
- All departments personalise their curriculum in order to make it accessible to all students. Support is provided for students who are underachieving and/or who need additional adult support due to their disability.
- Following extensive development work in the course of 2018/19, the school has had increased security fitted, including increased fencing around the perimeter of the school site and electronic access-controlled gate security with every thought given to ensuring staff/parents/carers/visitors to the school are able to access this.

The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Date Reviewed by Governors: **March 2020**