



Accessibility Policy

Policy Date: September 2018

Review Date: September 2021

Review frequency: 3 Yearly (monitored annually)

Approval Committee: Full Governing Body

Purpose and Aims

This document sets out the policy adopted by the Governors of Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College to monitor and improve accessibility within the site for persons with disabilities or additional needs. It provides a framework on which Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College base their arrangements for Accessibility Plans, ones which are compliant with current legislation and requirements, including section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014, regulation 51 and schedule 1 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and section 6 of the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.

At Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College we are committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors, and in which everyone feels welcome. We aim to provide an environment that enables full curriculum access, which 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 adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 in regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

Our Aims are to:

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum
- improve the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which pupils with a disability are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities and services provided or offered by Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College
- improve the delivery of information disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community, which is readily accessible to those who are not disabled

General Policy

1. The Governing Body of Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College recognises and accepts that every student who meets the admission criteria has the right to a full education regardless of any impairment. It is the policy of the Governing Body to take all necessary steps to meet its responsibilities and therefore to make provision, over a given period, to ensure that all pupils have access to the curriculum, as well as the buildings.
2. We are 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. The SENCO will liaise with departments to ensure that students are able to access all areas of the curriculum. 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.
3. The school will maintain an Accessibility Plan, managed by the Business Manager, which shows how access is to be provided and improved for disabled pupils, staff

and visitors to the school in a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

4. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on the progress of the Accessibility Plan, which will be reported upon and discussed annually with the Finance & Premises committee.
5. This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - SEND Policy
 - Medical Needs Policy
 - Equality Policy
 - Off site visits and journeys guidance

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
 - Expand the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as able-bodied pupils. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school.
 - Improve 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.
6. The intake of the school is reviewed each year for any accessibility restrictions of new pupils. Accessibility arrangements will be made in accordance with any new requirements. The SENCO will liaise with her Line-Manger and the Business Manager.
 7. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school annually in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.
 8. All new building work is assessed for inclusion of future-proofed accessibility requirements and such needs are accommodated where practical within legacy buildings for refurbishment work.
 9. Development training for staff will recognise the need to continue raising awareness on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, and these will be considered as and when relevant school policies are reviewed. There are CPD sessions each year which examine the needs of students with different disabilities.
 10. Access Audit: The school is housed in a two storey building. The main entrance is ramped for wheel chair access. All downstairs areas of school are accessible with a wheelchair. As there is no lift in school all upstairs areas are inaccessible via a wheelchair. Specialist curriculum or equipment required for any timetabled lesson will be provided in an alternative downstairs room, and lessons will be relocated to

alternative accessible areas of the school when such need arises. Should any visitor with a disability require such access then appropriate arrangements to accommodate that situation will be made at the time. The school has disabled parking space within our school car park. There are disabled toilet facilities available in our buildings. These are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The dining serving area rails have been lowered historically to make this area more accessible to all. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Personalised evacuation plans are put in place as required.

11. Complaints - The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Headteacher. The SEND governor or chair of governors may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.