

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN  
2016-2019

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## 1 SETTING INFORMATION

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### **Vision and Values**

Ark Atwood Academy is an inclusive school where all students are made to feel welcome and valued. Our Academy vision sets out to ensure that all students enjoy high quality learning experiences through which they are able to achieve their full potential irrelevant of their needs. Our inclusive ethos aims to encourage all students to be actively involved in their own learning. This involves valuing all students and staff equally and reducing barriers to learning and participation. Ark Atwood Academy aims to provide a rigorous and transformational education that prepares students for success at university and beyond.

### **Describe the Diverse Needs of the Community**

Ark Atwood Primary Academy admitted its first two reception classes (60 pupils) in September 2011. It is a mixed, non-denominational; two form entry primary school for local children in north Westminster. It offers a great education in a friendly neighbourhood school with the highest possible aspirations for its pupils. We place great emphasis of teaching our pupils social norms and nurturing a sense of community belonging. A clearly defined set of values, shared by all stakeholders, permeates all aspects of our work. The school moved into our new buildings in September 2014.

The academy is run by Ark, an educational charity which runs a network of academies in London, Birmingham, Portsmouth and Hastings. Ark academies are happy, well-run schools characterised by high ambitions, high achievement and exemplary behaviour.

### **General context:**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Pupils on Roll</b>                    | 443             |
| <b>Boys</b>                              | 243 (54.9%)     |
| <b>Girls</b>                             | 200 (45.1%)     |
| <b>Pupils eligible for Pupil Premium</b> | 24.8%           |
| <i>National average</i>                  | 26.6%           |
| <b>IDACI Score</b>                       | 0.67 (Rank 311) |
| <b>Pupils with EAL</b>                   | 30.4%           |
| <i>National average</i>                  | 19.5%           |
| <b>Pupils with SEND</b>                  | 7.7%            |
| <b>EHCP</b>                              | 3.4%            |
| <b>SEND Support</b>                      | 4.2%            |

### **Consultation to inform Audit/Action Plan: School staff, governors and support services**

Consultation with stakeholders is an ongoing process, involving both formal and informal procedures. Regular reviews take place with support services to evaluate needs and provisions.

### **Views of Parents**

Parental views are formally solicited at termly meetings called Parents Forum. Parents are also encouraged to arrange to see staff if they have particular concerns (or complaints). Several members of staff are able to speak community languages.

### **Views of Children and Young People**

Pupils are regularly consulted, including through personal reviews and student council feedback. The school council feeds back the pupil voice from class circle times each week.

**Who contributed to this Plan?**

The school leadership team, Mr Upfield (Head teacher |), and the Assistant head teachers: Jo Rees, Miss Lester and Miss Thomson.

## 2 PURPOSE

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Ark Atwood Academy is committed to providing a fully accessible environment 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion. We aim to as far as possible to remove those barriers which make it hard for a person who has difficulties with:

- Physical Co – ordination
- Mobility
- Continence
- Ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects
- Speech, Hearing or eyesight
- Memory or ability to learn, concentrate or understand
- Perceiving risk or physical danger

All pupils should be able to take part in the day to day life our the school and benefit from the learning experiences we provide

Overall, the Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- 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.
- 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 the school fails to do this they are in breach of the Equality Act). 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. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum and the school day. For example Atwood has an electronic changing table on level one to support children to access the changing table safely. Staff have also been trained in Special Yoga to support access of children with medical and learning needs in these classes.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

An Action Plans is attached in section 5 which relate to the three key aspects of accessibility. This plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis and or when appropriate. A new Accessibility Plan will be drawn up every three years.

We acknowledge that it is necessary to raise awareness of issues related to accessibility and to provide appropriate training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination.

This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Teaching and Learning
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Professional Development Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy

- Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- School Improvement Plan
- School Prospectus

### **Information from pupil data and school audit**

The latest information regarding the number of pupils with special educational needs and disability for Ark Atwood Academy can be found in the SEN Register.

Views of those who are to be consulted during the development, monitoring and reviewing of the Accessibility Plan:

The views of all stakeholders including external agencies, pupils and their parent/carers will be sought through regular meetings which are held as part of the on-going support given by Ark Atwood Academy to its students and staff.

The main priorities in Ark Atwood's plan are as follows:

### **Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum**

Ark Atwood Academy will endeavor to provide suitable access to a range of curriculum opportunities.

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- Where necessary, guidance and support will be given by the SENCO
- Ark Atwood Academy have several Teaching assistants who are deployed by the schools SENCO to ensure the needs of students with a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan are being met.
- Ark Atwood Academy to facilitate services from a range of agencies for all pupils and their families.

### **Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services**

- Ark Atwood Academy has one lift to ensure access for all pupils. The staffroom is on the ground floor to allow accessible for any staff with mobility needs or hidden disabilities.
- Excellent access to the main building with automatic front doors
- There is a meeting room and toilets within easy reach of the reception so we can easily accommodate wheel chair users and visitors with reduced mobility.
- Sport facilities that are located on the ground and first floor are accessible by a lifts. All buildings enable access for wheelchair users.
- A lift is provided to access classrooms on the first and second floor for any students and school personnel with mobility needs.
- Ark Atwood Academy has disabled toilet facilities for pupils and for the use of disabled people using extended school services with grab handles for additional support and emergency cords to request help. There is an electronic changing table to support afe access to the table on level 1.

### 3 PROCESS

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This involves:

Access audit and review of current activities



Devise actions



Set Goals and Targets



Consult on plan



Implementation



Evaluate the plan

## 4 SUMMARY

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We will:

- Continue to review the environment of the school, the way we plan, prepare and deliver the curriculum, the information we provide for pupils so that we can improve the access for both individuals and groups
- Provide an atmosphere where all staff and pupils feel safe and valued
- We will achieve this by promoting understanding of disability and work to show positive models of people with a disability. Our focus will be to avoid stereotypes and use language which emphasises the person rather than the disability
- Review those parts of our extra-curricular activities which may have limited access for pupils with a disability and to provide a solution to enable us to provide learning experiences which promote similar development of knowledge and understanding

| <b>Improving Physical Access</b>  |  |   |                         |   |   |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Target</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Outcome</b>  | <b>Timescale</b>        | <b>Success Criteria</b>   | <b>Monitoring/<br/>Review</b>                       |
| Ensure no student is excluded from accessing the premises   | Conduct an annual audit of school premises taking into account the specific needs of any student either current or prospective   | Classrooms are accessible to all students   | Annual audit and update | All students can access the premises  | By Leadership and SLT focus group                   |
| <b>Improving Curriculum Access</b>  |  |   |                         |   |   |
| <b>Target</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Outcome</b>  | <b>Timescale</b>        | <b>Success Criteria</b>   | <b>Monitoring/<br/>Review</b>                       |
| Ensure that teaching and learning meets the needs of all learners through effective differentiation | All departments to make provision for differentiation development. Where necessary, Schemes of Work will be revised to show how the needs of different pupils will be met within lessons. Whole school staff training session will offer all colleagues practical ways to plan delivery of lessons | All teachers are able to fully meet students' needs with regard to accessing the curriculum | On-going                | Drop in and lesson observation evidence indicates the needs of all learners are being met. Evaluation returns are positive by stakeholders. | By DOF<br><br>SENCo<br><br>GRC meets each half term |



|  |  |  |                  |  |                                 |
|--|--|--|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Ensure computer provision for all students identified as requiring ICT support.  | All departments to ensure computer/ Laptop access available for students<br>An annual audit of the ICT needs of pupils with disabilities                           | Improved attainment and progress for SEND students   | On-going         | All SEND students who require ICT support can access the curriculum and achieve.   | By DOF<br>SENCo                 |
| Continue to raise awareness of disability issues and provide training relating to health conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and the use of epipens. | Provide training and awareness raising sessions in staff meetings and assemblies for staff and students  | Ark Atwood will continue to be a fully inclusive school  | On-going         | Whole school community is aware of issues relating to access and this is reflected in responses to student surveys and staff questionnaires                                | SENCo                           |
| Continue to ensure that the needs of SEND students are met and seen to be met.   | Implement tracking to monitor the effectiveness of student Individual Support Plans – ILPs and GRC's.<br>Continually review policy and procedures relating to SEND | Improved attainment and progress for SEND students   | On-Going         | Needs of SEND students are addressed by all teachers<br>SEND students feel supported. Data analysis shows progress for SEND students in line with expectations and targets | SENCO and class teams<br>GRC's  |
| All out of school activities are planned to ensure the participation of SEND pupils  | Review all out of school provision to ensure compliance with legislation   | All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements | On-going         | Increase in access to all school activities for all SEND pupils  | School teams<br>Key Stage Leads |
| To liaise with Local primary schools and SENAR to review potential intake for September 2016   | To identify pupils who may need additional to or different from provision for September 2017 intake  | The school will be able to put appropriate provision in place  | Spring term 2017 | Procedures/equipment/ Ideas set in place by September 2017   | SLT<br>SENCo                    |

| <b>Improving the Delivery of Written Information</b>  |  |   |                  |  |                                |
|---|--|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Target</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Outcome</b>  | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Success Criteria</b>  | <b>Monitoring/<br/>Revieww</b> |
| Make available written material in alternative formats, if required   | The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LEA for converting written information into alternative formats  | The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes | As required      | Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved.   | SENCo                          |
| Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats, if required | Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it<br><br>Parent Mail  | All school information available for all stakeholders   | As required      | Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved   | SLT                            |
| Review documentation as required with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment.                 | Give advice on alternative formats, as required, and use of IT software to produce customised materials  | All school information available to pupils/parents with visual impairments  | As required      | Delivery of school information to pupils and parents with visual difficulties improved   | SENCo                          |
| Make sure disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved  | Utilise disabled parking spaces for disabled/designated to drop off and collect children<br>Arrange interpreters to communicate with deaf parents<br>Offer a telephone call to explain letters home for some parents who need this<br>Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents |   | On-going         | To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's exaction;<br>Regular attendance at school events by parents with disabilities | Whole school team              |