



## Accessibility Plan

<b>Policy Written/Reviewed by</b>	Claire Delahay
<b>Date of Review</b>	September 2023
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	September 2026
<b>Approval by Trust Board</b>	<i>27 September 2023</i>



## 1. Aims

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

The Inspiring Change Multi-Academy Trust (ICMAT) aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request. ICMAT is also committed to ensuring staff understand equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

Our complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility please use the process set out in this procedure for raising concerns.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on his or her ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010 to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils.

## 3. Accessibility in The Rowans

### Confidentiality

The Rowans recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities and respects the parents and child's right to confidentiality.

### Improving Access

It is our intention to remove, as far as possible, these barriers which make it difficult for any individuals who have difficulties within the following broad categories of need, if it gets in the way of school life:

- Physical access to the learning environment.
- Access to published information/ lessons/learning/school.
- Access to the curriculum.

We aim to seek

- The views and aspirations of disabled pupils and staff themselves
- The views and aspirations of the families of disabled pupils
- The views and aspirations of other disabled people or voluntary organisations

Detailed arrangements for any pupil or member of staff who has a disability will be discussed in full prior to their first day to ensure that any necessary adjustments are in place.

We aim to address the three areas of improving access to

- The physical environment
- Access to the curriculum
- Access to information usually provided in written form

#### Physical environment

- The Rowans has accessible toilet facilities for both staff and pupils. The pupil space is large enough to accommodate a toilet and washbasin, wheelchair and up to two adults.
- The Rowans is ground floor only accommodation, providing same floor exit points in case of fire.
- All doors are wheelchair access compliant.
- The Rowans has disabled parking spaces which site staff ensure are not used inappropriately, or blocked by other vehicles.
- The Rowans is committed to reviewing and updating accessibility to the building and facilities to ensure that they are suitable for the disabled.
- The Rowans is committed to ensuring that any new build or renovations are accessible by all potential pupils, staff and visitors.

#### Access to the curriculum

All areas of the curriculum should be available to pupils regardless of their disability. Where an activity cannot be made accessible or would be inappropriate then an alternative activity should be made available. For example, football may be inappropriate for an individual wheelchair user but an alternative physical activity should be offered.

Handwriting practice might be inappropriate for a disabled pupil but practising keyboard skills would be a suitable and valuable alternative. Planning to improve access to the curriculum will include identifying reasonable adjustments to offer an equality of opportunity.

Where disabled pupils are admitted to The Rowans, we are committed to planning specific staff training to understand their needs and to purchasing any specialist equipment to allow full access to the curriculum

For school trips staff will ensure the accessibility to coaches and mini buses for wheel chair users.

#### Access to written information

The Rowans will raise awareness of font size and page layouts to support any pupil with visual impairments and ensure that the library facility carries large font and easy read texts to improve access for any visually impaired pupils.

Signage around the building and grounds will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is accessible to all.

## 4. Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every **3** years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.