



# Accessibility Policy and Plan

Responsibility	Finance and Resources Committee	
Ratification date	22 09 2020	
Review cycle / date	3 (policy) 1 (plan)	Autumn 2021
Reference	020/2	
Updated	27 09 2020	

## 1. The Richmond upon Thames School (RTS) Policy Statement

RTS is committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all students, 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.

RTS plans, over time,<sup>1</sup> to ensure the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors to the school. An accessibility plan will be drawn up to cover a three year period. The plan will be updated annually.

The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improve access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. This is in keeping with the definitions of reasonable adjustment as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.
- Increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students with a disability are as equally prepared for life, as are the able bodied students; (if a school fails to do this they are in breach of the DDA). 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 students in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve and make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include hand-outs, timetables, text books and information about school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.
- The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each first three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.
- Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
- The plan will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Trust Board of The Richmond upon Thames School
- It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

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<sup>1</sup> RTS permanent accommodation on the REEC site is fully accessible

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **2.1. Trustees**

The trust board is committed to equal opportunities and will endeavour to ensure the school is fully inclusive and responsive to the needs of all students and the wider school community.

The trust board takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the environment is accessible to people with disabilities and that communications from school are as inclusive as possible. The trust board ensures that no child is discriminated against on account of any disability and that all students have equal opportunity to all aspects of the learning experience.

### **2.2. Headteacher and Leadership Team**

The Leadership Team is responsible for implementing, communicating and monitoring the impact of the Accessibility Policy and Plan.

The Leadership Team promote equality of opportunity when developing the school site, the curriculum and in all forms of communication.

### **2.3. Staff**

All staff will ensure that all students are treated fairly, equally and with respect, and maintain awareness of the Accessibility Policy and Plan.

All staff will strive to provide material with positive images of people who may be considered disabled.

All staff will challenge incidents of prejudice and pass on serious incidents for the attention of LT.

They will know the implications of the policy for their planning, teaching and learning strategies as well as for behavioural issues.

### **2.4. Students and Parents**

Students will be made aware of how the Accessibility Policy and Plan applies to them via appropriate updates on the development of the school site, the curriculum and communications.

Students (via Year and School council and other feedback systems) will have the opportunity to discuss and feed into the development of the school in general and specifically as related to the Accessibility Policy and Plan.

### 3. Accessibility Action Plan (updated annually)

Objectives	Actions	Update Sept 2020
Ensure access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary	<p>Conduct accessibility survey every three years and complete follow-up actions</p> <p>Maintain clear circulation of walkways between buildings</p> <p>Provision of any specific equipment required such as specialist chairs and adaptation to computer equipment</p>	Access Audit (July 2019)
Ensure access to the curriculum for students with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied students	<p>Ensure students who fall within the nationally recognised 10% of students who are likely to be exempt from being expected to engage with the EBACc (SEND students with significant learning needs) have access to a broad and balanced alternative curriculum that ensures progressive future learning pathways</p> <p>Develop provision of CPD for staff to ensure equal access to learning for all disabled students therefore ensuring progress is at least equal to national</p> <p>Ensure all staff understand and develop a range of reasonable adjustment strategies</p>	<p>See: <a href="#">RTS SEND Information Report</a> (14 07 20)</p> <p><a href="#">RTS SEND policy</a> (16 10 18)</p>
Make reasonable adjustments to the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities	<p>Make available all key publications in large print or other like formats when requested. Where parents or other stakeholders are known to have a disability offer alternative appropriately formatted written information or oral communications</p> <p>Maintain a confidential register of core stakeholders and staff with disabilities so as to proactively offer support through reasonable adjustment.</p>	<p>See: <a href="#">RTS Communications policy</a> (14 07 20)</p> <p>See: <a href="#">RTS Disability Policy</a> (pending review 15 09 20)</p>

[Appendix 1 - Accessibility Audit July 2019](#)