

School Accessibility Plan

Date of policy: September 2020

Developed by: Headteacher

Date of next review: September 2023

Southfields
Multi-Academy
TRUST



Southfields
Academy



Linden Lodge
School

A Specialist Sensory & Physical College

This plan needs to be read in conjunction with other school policies and documents including:

- Health and Safety policy
- SEN information report
- KCSIE 2020
- Therapy Policy 2020
- School Improvement Plan 2020-2021
- Moving and Handling Policy 2020
- Our school Code of Conduct

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

At Linden Lodge School we are committed to treating everyone with fairness and respect and challenging any form of discrimination or barrier to learning.

Our Vision and Values

We believe that our core purpose is enabling pupils with a Sensory-impairment to access, engage and achieve

Integral to enabling our pupils to achieve their educational potential is our continual improvement of the curriculum, resources and built facilities we provide.

Aims

To provide an accessible, safe and stimulating learning environment for all

To maximise the potential of inter-disciplinary working in order to provide pupils and their families with holistic and ambitious personalised programmes at every step of the learning journey

To develop our facilities and campus so that pupils can achieve as much independence as possible within a secure environment

To continually review the individual needs of learners from admission to leaving so that we can adapt both resources and facilities to meet pupils' personalised needs

Our Accessibility Priorities

Improving Access to the Physical environment on site

As a specialist provider with pupils with vision impairment, hearing impairment and multi-sensory impairment Linden Lodge School offers outstanding access for learners with sensory impairment and disabilities. We continually review our facilities both from a Health and Safety perspective and also to support pupils in achieving the highest possible outcomes.

In 2020-2021 we plan to upgrade railings, stairs and flooring for our visually-impaired learners and also to further develop the outside playground pathways.

We encourage as much independence as possible amongst our pupils and intend to upgrade internal storage to enable learners where possible to organise their individual resources

Through school council meetings and our regular Health and Safety tours on site we encourage our stakeholders to engage and participate in identifying areas of improvement or ideas to further develop our physical environment

Enabling Access to the curriculum and extended core curriculum

Access to the curriculum is a highly specialist feature of Linden Lodge School and is key to pupils' achievement of their potential. In addition to the curriculum we provide an extended core curriculum for sensory-impaired learners. This includes our curriculum in the community designed to provide our pupils with meaningful social inclusion, expand real life learning opportunities and develop independence.

A key priority in 2020-2021 is to develop our specialist Learning Resources Centre and optimise our use of technology including the recently acquired 3 D printer to provide high quality learning materials

We also plan to develop through an inter-disciplinary project between our educational and therapy staff innovative programmes in hydrotherapy and swimming. As part of this we intend to upgrade our hydrotherapy changing areas.

We will further invest in learning technology, IT software as part of our Communication strategy.

Supporting pupils with complex developmental and medical needs

The majority of pupils at Linden Lodge School have additional and/or medical needs which require management and oversight by both non-clinical and paediatric nursing teams based in the school. Each pupil has an Individual Healthcare Plan which is jointly written by school staff, families and health providers.

We aim to include pupils in all school activities and to ensure that we assess risk and act accordingly so that pupils can participate safely.

In 2020-2021 we plan to increase equipment and seating for pupils who have specific sensory integration needs and require personalised adaptations.

At Linden Lodge School we value every individual and as part of this we are committed to continually improving and safeguarding our fully accessible environment. We work to remove barriers and to demonstrate that through our culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion sensory-impaired children and young people can access, engage and achieve and enrich communities and society as a whole.

We provide through Wandsworth sensory support service outreach services in hearing, vision and multi-sensory impairment to Early Years settings, homes, clinics and schools. Through this work we promote accessibility and provide advice, support and expert guidance on increasing accessibility for sensory-impaired learners.