



# Accessibility Policy

**Date Published: 19.09.18**

**Review Date: 19.09.19**



**TOVE LEARNING TRUST**

# Accessibility Plan

## Introductory statement

This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up to cover the period from June 2018 to June 2020. The Plan is available in large print or other accessible formats if required.

The plan seeks to address and take into account the Academy Public sector equality duty, within section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Rushden Academy along with its sponsors Tove Learning Trust are committed to providing an environment that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and all visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. Rushden Academy is also committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

## Background

The Academy layout and facilities.

Rushden Academy is committed to making all reasonable adjustments to improve the physical environment of the Academy site to allow access to the educational provision provided at the Academy. Rushden Academy is also committed to provide other beneficial resources that are required to assist any transition.

The Academy occupies a site that was initially developed on in the 1950's with further buildings added in the 1970's, 1990's and more recently 2010. In light of these expansions to the Academy site, the Academy now has a broad and unique array of buildings all differing in design and size.

With installation of the new 2018 visitor's car park and disabled parking bays adjacent the Main Reception. Ease of access has been vastly improved to the Academy site for all Academy Staff and Visitors.

Access around the site is generally good, with level pedestrian pathways and pedestrian entrances into all of the Academy Buildings.

## Building Design Failings

- Due to the mitigating design factors there is currently no wheelchair access to all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor areas.
- Again due to design factors access is limited to the Gymnasium without the use of the wooden ramp.
- The Academy site does have a prominent gradient falling from the Main Staff car park towards the main Academy site.

## Academy Improvements

- In 2008 the Academy redesigned and refurbished the main student toilets to incorporate an additional 2 disabled toilet cubicles.
- In 2009 new entrance doors with low thresholds were fitted to allow easier access.
- In 2010 the Applied Learning Centre was built this provided a loop hearing system, additional disabled toilets.

- The new 2010 Academy visitor car park provided additional disabled parking bays and easier access around the main site.
- In 2010 the Academy had a survey looking at the feasibility of turning the goods lift within Block B0 into a compliant passenger lift. This however proved to be unsuccessful.
- In 2011 the main reception was moved into the Applied Learning Centre, this was for easier access and comfort factors for all visitors and users of the Academy.
- Also in 2011 a ramp was constructed within the main hall corridor to provide easier access for all users.
- Also safety flooring was fitted to the B0 block stairwells and main hall corridor.
- From 2016 a phased program of installing new lighting has been implemented within all circulation corridors, to provide better Lux levels.
- 2016 Installation of a level footpath to provide buggy and wheelchair access from the main carpark to the Nursery and Children's Centre buildings.
- In 2018 the resurfacing of the pedestrian pathways and playground areas was completed.
- In 2018 additional parking bays have been installed adjacent the Main Reception, providing easier access to site.

### **Future Improvements**

- Improved access to the Gymnasium.
- Continual upgrading of internal flooring and lighting.
- Ensure that any improvements made within this Accessibility Plan do not fall into disrepair. This will be managed by regular inspections by the Site Manager.

### **Individual Needs**

Priorities set out within this Accessibility Plan are subject to change to accommodate the changing needs of any individuals. The Head of SEN will advise the Senior Leadership Team of any specific adaptations or resources that may be required.

### **Curriculum Delivery**

The Academy's Vision Statement and SEN Policy highlight the approach to the delivery of the Curriculum at Rushden Academy. Rushden Academy actively seeks the support and advice of all relevant services to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all students. Any significant modifications to the delivery of the curriculum are tailored and negotiated on an individual basis when required.

### **Associated Policies and Plans**

This plan should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- The Academy Prospectus
- Single Equality Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Curriculum Statement
- Academy Development Plans

### **Review and Evaluation**

This Accessibility Plan will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body along with all current Rushden Academy Policies.

This policy was been approved by the board on: 19.09.18

Signature of AIB chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T Foster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Name of chair of the Board: Tim Foster

Date for renewal: 19.09.19