Accessibility Policy

The Sheriff Partnership

Home of Coventry and Central Warwickshire Teaching School

Last review date:	Summer 2026
Next Review date:	Summer 2027
Reviewed by:	Becca Wall
Approving committee:	Pastoral
Policy type:	Legislative
Other related policies:	• Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy • Equality Duties Policy - Equalities Information • SEN Policy • Curriculum Policy • Whole School Development Plan

1. Aims

The is committed to providing a fully inclusive environment in which all students can achieve their potential and participate fully in school life.

This Accessibility Plan has been prepared in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and sets out how the Trust will continue to improve access for disabled pupils over the period 2026–2029.

The plan aims to:

1. Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
2. Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services.
3. Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils, parents, carers and visitors.

The Trust is committed to making reasonable adjustments and removing barriers to learning and participation wherever possible.

2. Definition of Disability

Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is considered to have a disability if they have:
"a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities."

The definition includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical disabilities
- Sensory impairments

- Neurodivergent conditions
- Long-term medical conditions
- Mental health difficulties where the legal definition is met

3. Principles

The Trust:

- Welcomes students, parents, carers and visitors with disabilities
- Promotes equality of opportunity
- Seeks to eliminate discrimination and harassment
- Makes reasonable adjustments to reduce disadvantage
- Encourages participation in all aspects of school life
- Works in partnership with students, families and external agencies to identify and remove barriers to learning

4. Access to the Curriculum

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all students can access and participate fully in the curriculum and wider life of the school.

This is achieved through:

- Early identification of barriers to learning
- The graduated approach to SEND support
- Individualised reasonable adjustments
- Adaptive teaching strategies within mainstream classrooms
- Access arrangements awarded in accordance with current JCQ regulations
- Specialist support from external agencies where required
- Assistive technology and specialist equipment where appropriate
- Access to intervention programmes supporting literacy, communication, social understanding, executive functioning and emotional wellbeing
- Careful planning to ensure participation in educational visits, residential experiences, enrichment activities and extracurricular opportunities
- Ongoing consultation with students and parents

Whole-school training on **Making Sense of Neurodivergence** is refreshed every three years. In addition, all teaching staff engage in an ongoing programme of professional development to strengthen adaptive teaching and inclusive classroom practice.

The effectiveness of curriculum accessibility is reviewed through:

- Student progress data
- Attendance and participation rates
- Student and parent feedback
- SEND review processes
- Annual review of provision by the SENCO and Senior Leadership Team

Access to the Physical Environment

The Trust continually reviews the accessibility of the physical environment and seeks to remove barriers wherever reasonably practicable.

Mobility Impairment

The school site includes:

- Ramp access to school buildings
- Lift access to upper floors in the main buildings and Science block
- Designated disabled parking spaces
- Accessible toilet facilities

Due to the age and physical construction of some buildings, access is not currently available to:

- Rooms 15, 16, 34 and 36
- Upper floor of the Technology Block
- Upper floors of Penrhos House
- Upper floors of the Sheriff Centre

Where access is required, lessons, meetings or events will be relocated to accessible venues.

The accessibility of sports facilities located off-site is considered on an individual basis.

Hearing Impairment

The Trust provides:

- A hearing loop in Big School
- Portable induction loop systems
- Support from specialist hearing impairment services
- Staff training in the use of radio aid systems and cochlear implant awareness
- Access to sign language interpreters where required
- Hearing dog access

Visual Impairment

The Trust can provide:

- Large-print materials
- Electronic formats
- Alternative accessible formats where required
- Adjustments to teaching materials and resources

Temporary Disabilities

Students with temporary disabilities resulting from illness or injury will be supported through reasonable adjustments, which may include:

- Classroom relocation
- Lift access arrangements
- Adapted timetables
- Additional written materials
- Access to assistive technology

Accessible Information

The Trust recognises the importance of ensuring information is accessible to all members of the school community.

Where required, information can be provided in alternative formats, including:

- Large print
- Electronic copies
- Accessible PDF formats
- Coloured paper
- Alternative communication methods where appropriate

The Trust will continue to review its website and communication systems to ensure compliance with accessibility requirements and best practice.

Parents and carers may request reasonable adjustments to communication methods where required. Examples may include:

- Communication by text or email
- Access to interpretation services
- Use of induction loop systems
- Accessible meeting locations

Admissions

The Trust operates admissions procedures in accordance with relevant legislation and admissions requirements.

Arrangements for disabled students seeking entry to year 7 will be as agreed centrally between Warwickshire Local Authority and the headteachers of selective school in East Warwickshire.

Parents of disabled students are encouraged to contact the school at the earliest opportunity so that any reasonable adjustments required for admissions procedures, entrance assessments or transition arrangements can be considered and implemented.

The Trust works closely with primary schools, families and external agencies to support successful transition arrangements.

The parents of disabled students seeking entry to the Sixth Form should contact the Head of Sixth Form in advance of the Sixth Form Open Information Evening, so that arrangements can be made for the student to be able to access relevant subject talks.

Monitoring and Review

The SENCO will coordinate the implementation and monitoring of this Accessibility Plan.
Progress against identified objectives will be reviewed annually and reported to the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Committee.

The plan will be formally reviewed every three years or earlier where significant changes occur to:

- Legislation
- School provision

- The physical environment
- The needs of the school community

Accessibility Action Plan 2025-2028

Objective 1: Improve Access to the Curriculum

Action	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
Deliver whole-school Making Sense of Neurodivergence training	SENCO	Every 3 years	Staff confidence and understanding improved
Provide ongoing CPD on adaptive teaching	SENCO / SLT	Annual	Quality-first teaching evident in classrooms
Review access arrangements and reasonable adjustments annually	SENCO	Annual	Students receive appropriate support
Ensure educational visits and extracurricular activities are accessible	Trip Leaders / SENCO	Ongoing	Disabled students participate fully

Objective 2: Improve Access to the Physical Environment

Action	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
Review accessibility of teaching rooms and communal areas	Site Team / SLT	Annual	Barriers identified and addressed
Maintain lifts, ramps and accessibility equipment	Site Team	Ongoing	Facilities remain operational
Review accessibility arrangements for off-site sports facilities	PE Department / SENCO	Annual	Appropriate adjustments in place
Ensure accessible parking and access routes are maintained	Site Team	Ongoing	Safe access available

Objective 3: Improve Access to Information

Action	Lead	Timescale	Success Criteria
Provide information in accessible formats on request	All Staff	Ongoing	Requests met promptly
Review website accessibility annually	SLT / Website Lead	Annual	Website remains accessible
Promote awareness of alternative communication methods	Administration Team	Annual	Parents aware of support available
Review accessibility of school communications	SLT	Annual	Information accessible to stakeholders

Complaints

Any concerns regarding accessibility should be raised initially with the school. Complaints will be managed in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy.