

ACCESS POLICY

Reviewed June 2018

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**Succeeding
Together**

wittonpark.org.uk



WITTON PARK ACADEMY

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1) STATEMENT OF VALUES

Witton Park Academy makes all children welcome. The school aims to ensure that every child has access to the premises, curriculum and related resources and will make every effort to provide students with the support they require. The school has a caring ethos and the students with disabilities (and their parents/carers) will feel welcome and valued within the school community and take part in the full range of activities.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

Witton Park Academy is a large 11-16 high school and is a new build under the BSF Programme. Both staff and students moved into the building in September 2012. We have 920 students on roll. The Building is DDA compliant.

The size and layout of areas including all academic, sporting, play and social facilities, classrooms, the assembly hall, canteen, library, gymnasium and outdoor sporting facilities, playgrounds, and common rooms allow access for all students.

The Access Audit shows:-

- Wheelchair users can move around the school and have access to all areas.
- Routes are logical and well signed.
- At present wheelchair users and students and colleagues use the community entrance to access the school.
- Designated parking areas have been arranged for disabled members of the school community.
- There are three lifts within the school.
- Emergency and evacuation systems are in place to inform all students, including students with SEN and disability. Alarms have both visual and auditory components.

- Areas are well lit.
- Furniture and equipment in every classroom has height adjustable tables. The food technology rooms and work areas also have adjustable tables.
- Specific SEN students also have a Personal Evacuation Evaluation Plan (PEEPs). This is discussed with students which they then sign a questionnaire.

3 PRIORITIES IN THE SUMMARY

- Premises

Witton Park Academy is a new build school, part of the Building Schools for the future programme in Blackburn and Darwen. The design has been developed in conjunction with the Local Educational Partnership.

It has been built on the existing Witton Park High School site, set within the magnificent Witton Country Park. It has the capacity to accommodate 1,230 pupils, aged 11 – 16, the school also offers sports, leisure and learning facilities to the wider local community.

Witton Park High School aims to be an outstanding place of learning, organised for every pupil's success and happiness. It has an impressive and innovative design and will make a real difference to the quality of education by transforming learning experiences. Learning areas are bright, spacious and comfortable and will provide the highest quality education for all its pupils, raising aspirations and preparing them fully for life in the 21st Century.

There are separate male and female toilets for students located in every area of the school. Positioned in staff-rich areas, the toilet areas have open entrances to allow for passive supervision at all times

Accessible toilets are found within each toilet block and these are fitted with alarm pull chords, activating a flashing light outside the room and also on a panel situated at reception. The alarms can be cancelled by the use of a reset button located adjacent to the WC.

There are four hygiene rooms located around the building, one on each floor, with primary facilities, in the sports area and adjacent to the dining area.

The school has been furnished throughout with high quality new furniture some of which is height adjustable.

A specialist supplier has worked closely with Blackburn and Darwen council and developed a catalogue of the most practicable and cost effective items of furniture items such as the standard pupil desk have been specifically designed for the schools BSF programme.

- Curriculum

To meet the needs of our pupils we need:-

- Ensure continued equality of opportunity and access in all subject policy and scheme of work reviews.
- Provide more resources for a range of disabilities/impairment appropriate to the subject areas.
- Raise staff awareness by training and discussion.
- Raise pupil awareness through PHCSE.

- To monitor that all pupils have access to all curricular areas and all extra curricular activities.
- To monitor pupil outcomes through the school's tracking system.
- Teachers and Teaching Assistants will have necessary training to teach and support students with disabilities.
- Lessons should provide opportunities for all students to take part in music, drama and physical activities.
- Staff will recognise the physical and intellectual effort expended by some students with disabilities for example lip reading (deaf), in reading lengthy texts (visually impaired), in participating in practical work (dyspraxic students, students with physical disability, visually impaired).
- Access to computer technology appropriate for students with disabilities will be available in school.
- All students will have the opportunity to participate in school visits irrespective of attainment or impairment.
- High expectations are set for all students.
- Staff seek to remove barriers to learning and participation.
- External agencies are invited in to speak to staff with regards to specific needs e.g. VI/HI.

- Provision of Information

To address the needs of our pupils we need:-

- To make sure all pupils can access all information relating to curriculum areas, extra-curricular activities and the wider school curriculum.
- To be aware of the requirements of pupils with a range of impairments.

4 THE ACCESS PLAN

Information

The policy group responsible for constructing this plan had the following information available:-

- SEN Code of Practice 2014
- Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils (DfES 2002).
- “Making it Work”: A Training Pack for Schools and LEA’s (Council for Disabled Children/Disability Equality in Education, August 2002).
- Information about pupils in school and future pupils.

Consultation

In producing this Access Plan we consulted with the following groups:-

- Parents in school.
- Pupils in school.
- External Agencies, eg physiotherapists.
- LEA

Availability

The plan is available:-

- In written form in the school office.
- In electronic form.
- The plan is written in plain English using font size 16.

Duration

The plan will run from September 2017 until July 2018

Review

It will be reviewed annually in September and revised if necessary.

Signed E Davis

Date 19th June 2018

Date of next review – September 2018