

## Accessibility Policy

Policy Reviewed:	Autumn 2025
Next Review:	Autumn 2026

### Accessibility Plan for Brook Sixth Form and Academy

Brook Sixth Form and Academy is committed to providing an inclusive environment for all students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The school aims to remove barriers and ensure accessibility for all members of our community, including students, staff, and visitors.

This plan sets out the proposals of how Brook 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Academy will seek to increase access to education for students with special educational needs and disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Disability Discriminations Act, 2010 (DDA):

- increasing the extent to which these students can participate in the Academy curriculum;
- improving the environment of the Academy to increase the extent to which these students can take advantage of education and associated services;
- improving the delivery to these students of information, which is provided in writing for students who are not disabled.

### Physical Accessibility:

The academy is fully accessible with a lift to all floors. This ensures that students, staff, and visitors with mobility impairments can access every part of the school, including classrooms, administrative areas, and recreational spaces.

In the event of an emergency, we have evacuation chairs placed on every floor to facilitate a safe and swift evacuation for individuals who may need assistance.

### Emergency Evacuation:

The evacuation chairs on each floor are regularly maintained and tested to ensure they are operational.

Staff are trained in how to use the evacuation chairs as part of the school's regular fire drill procedures. This ensures that in an emergency, all students can be evacuated safely.

Personal evacuation plans would be placed for students with specific needs. These plans could then be reviewed and updated in partnership with parents, carers, and specialists.

### **Site Accessibility**

Brook 6th Form and Academy provides full disabled access to its main building, including designated parking for Blue Badge holders and accessible washrooms on every floor. The academy considers the needs of students, staff, and visitors when planning future developments. To improve, it will conduct annual reviews of site incidents and maintenance, provide quarterly updates to the Local Governing Body on safety matters, and ensure risk assessments are up to date. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) will be provided for all students, and the academy will comply with the prescribed medications policy.

### **Support for SEND Students:**

We offer a range of assistive technologies and tools, such as screen readers, audio devices, and specialised software, to support learning for students with various needs.

Regular reviews of student progress and well-being are conducted, and strategies are adapted to ensure the best outcomes for all SEND students.

### **Access to the curriculum**

Brook 6th Form and Academy aims to improve curriculum access for students by:

- Offering a comprehensive induction, collaborating with feeder schools and external services to support student needs.
- Ensuring staff follow Trust policies on classroom personalization and regularly review Pupil Passports.
- Providing necessary accommodations (e.g., extra time, scribes, laptops) for SEND students during exams and assessments.

For continuous improvement, Brook 6th Form and Academy will:

- Regularly review and adjust difficult curriculum areas for SEND students, such as providing lift keys or if needed room changes.
- Analyse SEND student data after assessments and implement intervention strategies as needed.
- Explore additional external support options for SEND students.
- Offer a smooth transition process to external provisions like college or apprenticeships.
- Review SEND progress, performance, and provision in Governing Body meetings.

### **Access to Pastoral support**

Brook 6th Form and Academy provides tailored pastoral support with an Assistant Principal leading the Pastoral strand. Students may receive support from teaching assistants, and those with a

Statement/EHCP will get their entitled provisions. The academy ensures staff training to meet student needs and conducts performance reviews, focusing on SEND students' outcomes.

### **Access to information**

Brook 6th Form and Academy offers various ways to access information and performance updates, including newsletters, the website, open days, meetings, and SEND review processes. To improve, the academy will ensure all literature is accessible to visually impaired students, explore alternative information access methods, and enhance communication with SEND parents/carers. The academy will also collaborate with external providers for alternative formats, such as Braille or audiotape, if needed.

### **Staff Training and Awareness:**

Staff are regularly trained in supporting students with SEND and promoting inclusivity across the academy. This training covers areas such as understanding specific disabilities, using assistive technology, and responding to the needs of students with physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments.

Our staff maintain awareness of the importance of language, empathy, and respect for all students, fostering a positive and inclusive school culture.

### **Access to information and professional confidentiality**

Brook 6th Form and Academy involves the entire community in developing its accessibility plan, seeking input from students, parents/carers, SENDCo, staff. Annual reviews for students with statements/EHCPs allow input from students and parents on their provision. The Accessibility Action Plan is monitored at the Local Governing Body's, and the policy is reviewed annually. The academy upholds professional confidentiality, ensuring it benefits the student, especially in safeguarding contexts.

### **Conclusion:**

Brook Sixth Form and Academy is dedicated to ensuring that all students, regardless of their individual needs, can access a high-quality education in a supportive, inclusive, and safe environment. This Accessibility Plan outlines our commitment to meeting the needs of our SEND students and improving accessibility across the school.

This policy aligns with Key legislation, including 'The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2015' and the 'Children's and Families Act 2014, SENDA 2001' and the 'Equalities Act 2010'. It ensures compliance with the 'Education Acts of 2002 and 2011', and regulations for 'Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators'. It also adheres to the guidelines set out in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (2015) and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, as extended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001. The policy emphasizes the duty not to treat students with SEND less favourably due to their disability.