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ACCESS POLICY

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| **Person responsible for Plan:** | Emma Shaw |
| **Date approved:** | April 2022 |
| **Review date:** | April 2025 |

# Rationale

To ensure that Park Lane School takes account of and responds to its responsibility for ensuring that we treat all pupils fairly and with respect, ensuring they have equal access and opportunities without discrimination of any kind. Park Lane School also provides equal opportunity and access for staff, parents, governors and visitors.

# Statutory Responsibilities

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools are required to produce accessibility plans for their individual school. This is required to be published on the School website. [www.parklane.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.parklane.cheshire.sch.uk/). Paper copies are also available on request from the school office.

# Access for Pupils to the School Curriculum

The policies of the school are open and accessible to those who work in the school and to the public at large. There are policies on the website which are required by the Department of Education. There are specific policies that outline how the school addresses and continues to review and improve the school curriculum. These include the following policies:

* Planning, Assessment, Recording, Reporting & Achievement
* Monitoring of Teaching & Learning
* Communication & Literacy
* Homework
* Curriculum Statement
* Special Educational Needs.

For details of our approach to Teaching & Learning, the above policies provide the framework and context for how this is achieved

The Curriculum Statement provides details of how access is provided to the National Curriculum. The planning and curriculum development, the teaching delivery and the recording of pupil progress enables all pupils with a range of severe and complex learning needs to make progress from their starting points.

Park Lane School, Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8JR Tel: 01625 384040 E: [head@parklane.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@parklane.cheshire.sch.uk) Web: [www.parklane.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.parklane.cheshire.sch.uk/)

IT plays an increasingly important role in the delivery of the curriculum and in ensuring the pupils have the skills to equip them for life in the 21st Century. All classrooms have computers that are equipped with plasma screens and/or touch screens and have adapted access via switches. Ipads are available to all pupils and a dedicated IT Suite provides a range of access opportunities including ‘eye gaze’ technology. In addition pupils have access to leisure equipment such as IPads and Wii systems and are taught to use these with a degree of independence.

# Access to the Physical Environment of the School

Park Lane School is fully accessible for all people including those who use wheelchairs. All entrances and doorways are able to be accessed by wheelchairs and, where necessary, ramps and railings have been added.

The school has disabled toilet facilities.

The school has 2 school minibuses, which are fitted with a tail-lift and with safety harnesses/seatbelts that enable any pupil with any physical disability to be able to use these vehicles.

The school makes extensive use of powered hoists. There is a full programme of on- going staff inset and risk assessments to ensure that those requiring to use hoists are fully trained and able to assist those being hoisted to access teaching & learning activities.

Lift access is available for pupils to access the upper storeys of the extension to Park Lane, opened in April 2022.

The school has an accessible hydrotherapy pool so that pupils can swim and experience freedom of movement in the water.

The school governors are provided with a termly up-date regarding any improvements to the school premises and are involved in decisions about larger scale improvements.

# Written information

As part of differentiating the curriculum, and how teaching is delivered to a wide range of abilities, staff take account of how teaching material is presented. Alongside written material, pupils have access to signs, symbols, objects of reference and picture references that enable them to make greater understanding of what is being taught and asked of them.

In the same way, any literature that the school provides for the staff and community at large can be provided in a range of pictorial and written forms e.g the school Facebook page.

# Summary

This policy is part of an overall commitment to working with all ages and abilities in order that we play a full part in lifelong learning. Our prime aim is to enable the pupils at the school to reach their full potential. In so doing, we employ a range of methods and are fully committed to equality of access for all pupils combined with genuine support and willingness to provide an excellent curriculum for the children at this school and enable the staff to have the best use of the resources available.

Review and Monitoring.

The Access Policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Governing Board.

The Access Plan will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and by Governors through the Teaching, Assessment and Learning Committee.

The Access Plan and the Access Policy will be available to all Governors on Governor

Hub.

The Access Plan and Access Policy will be published on the school website.

Emma Shaw

Head Teacher