

EDSTART SCHOOLS

Accessibility Policy

INCLUSION, ATTENDANCE & BEHAVIOUR

Policy owner	EdStart Specialist Education Ltd
Applies to	EdStart Schools – All Sites
Category	Inclusion, attendance & behaviour
Approval and validity	September 2026 to September 2027
Review trigger	Annual review, or earlier following statutory, regulatory or operational change

Status: This 2026 version supersedes all previous versions.

1. INTRODUCTION

This plan is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Equality Act 2010, which consolidated and replaced the earlier planning duty in the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002.

Also, please refer to our SEN policy.

2. DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

Disability is defined by the Equality Act 2010 (DDA):

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

3. KEY OBJECTIVES

To reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to full participation in EdStart's programme for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.

4. PRINCIPALS

Compliance with the DDA is consistent with EdStart's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of EdStart's SEN policy. EdStart recognises its duty under the DDA:

- not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services

- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
- to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage

In performing their duties staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002).

EdStart recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.

EdStart provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:

- setting suitable learning challenges
- responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

5. ACTIVITY

a) Education & related activities EdStart will continue to seek and follow the advice of Education services and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

b) Physical environment EdStart will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and requesting future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises.

c) Provision of information EdStart will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LEA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.