


## Innovation, Aspiration and Excellence

# Accessibility Plan Policy

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| **Policy & Procedure Number** | HS021 | |
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| **Head of School** | Lorna Poutney | |
| **Chair of the Local Governing Board** | Johanne Thomas | |
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| **Authorised By** | Local Governing Board | |
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**Houlton School Accessibility Plan**

## 1. Values and Ethos

Houlton School will 'prepare pupils for the challenges and opportunities of their future lives through a world class curriculum, transformational learning experiences and the promotion of aspiration, innovation and excellence in all aspects of the school experience: once they have joined our Houlton family, pupils will enjoy the proud legacy of being members of our community for life'.

Our Houlton family aims to be:

1. Excellent in our provision of **transformational learning experiences**;
2. Excellent in our **expectations for, and from, every pupil**;
3. Excellent in the **tending of our Houlton family relationships**;
4. Excellent in our **attention to detail** in all that we do; and
5. Excellent in our **recognition and celebration of all that our Houlton family does well**.

We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the school community to reach out for excellence. The school will work together with pupils, parents/carers and wider stakeholders to support this aim.

## 2. About Houlton School

Houlton is an all through school on the Houlton Development and is a large campus development. The school is a Grade II listed building, formerly an international radio station and the school will be set in the historic grounds and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Two buildings have been completely remodelled from the inside to the latest specification whilst maintaining the listed outside features and there are three brand new purpose built buildings which are also built to the latest specifications. The 6th Form and Primary Section of the school opened in September 2026.

## 3. How this Accessibility Plan has been agreed

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by a planning group who consisted of**:**

- **Principal, Vice Principal and Trust Strategic Lead for SEND**
- **Trustee for Inclusion and Safeguarding**
- **Business Operation and Estates Manager**

This was informed by:

- A school accessibility audit
- Buildings' Guidance

## 4. Houlton's Accessibility Action Plan

### Improving access to the physical environment

Objective: To ensure that the school's physical environment is accessible to all pupils and fully meets their needs.

| Intention | Actions | Timescale | Responsibility | Performance measure which will be used to evaluate whether the intention has been achieved: |
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| Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability | Ensure extracurricular and educational visits are accessible to all students. | On-going | Trip leader | Trips planned with students with accessibility difficulties in mind. |
| | Promote inclusive sports to all students. | September 2027 | Associate SENDCo/Head of Faculty - PE | Identity and organise School sporting fixtures specifically for students with SEND. |
| | Investigate possible external funding with County Integrated Disability Service | February 2027 | Trust SEND Lead | Speak with Teri from Integrated Disability Service |

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| Emergency access for vehicles to enter the site is well signposted | Ensure that there are signs to the service gate to enable emergency vehicles to know where they need to go. | March 2027 | Site Manager/Trust SEND Lead | All signage in place on the external element of the school. |
| Ensure that staff members are effectively trained to use the evacuation chair in case of an emergency | Relevant staff and pupils are trained in their use.<br>Amended Fire/Emergency Evacuation Plan in place | February 2027 | Vice Principal/Site Manager | Students with disabilities are safely able to exit the building in case of an emergency |
| Exit from site in case of an emergency | Ensure that correct signage is around the school<br><br>Ensure that all emergency exits are in full working order<br><br>Ensure that alarm can be heard around the entire school<br><br>Ensure that non-parking areas are identified and kept clear | February 2027 | Trust SEND Lead/Site Manager | To ensure that students are able to safely exit the building in case of an emergency |
| Student in wheelchair able to use wheelchairs effectively and safely in the classroom | Class teachers with wheelchair users or students with mobility issues layout their classroom for safe movement around the room. | January 2027 | Trust SEND Lead/Site Manager | Walkways and doors are wide enough for students with mobility issues to move around the room and enter and exit the room. |

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| Signage make orientation around the academy building accessible<br><br>Review internal Signage to ensure it is accessible to all, including those with visual difficulties | Signage around the site is renewed<br><br>Check that directional signage is uncluttered and large, high contrast lettering is used. Consider tactile/braille signage | September 2027<br><br>March 2024 | Head of School/Site Manager<br><br>Site Manager | Pupils are better able to find different areas of the academy<br><br>Signage accessible to all |
| The Academy is providing an environment which feels safe for all pupils.<br><br>Consideration of sensory impairments | Light bulb casings to be replaced and blinds fixed on a rolling programme.<br><br>Acoustic survey | On-going<br><br>July 2027 | Site Team<br><br>Trust SEND Lead to liaise with WCC | On review of accessibility audit; light bulb casings in place.<br><br>Areas are identified with better acoustics and staff made aware. |
| Trip Hazards - ensure that all students can safely navigate around the school building | Ensure that all steps have anti slip tape upon them. This will ensure all students with vision impairment can see the steps | February 2027 | Site Team | Reduce accidents of tripping around the academy.<br><br>Tripping/collision hazards clearly highlighted and risk mitigated |

## 5. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be regularly reviewed and was last reviewed and adapted by the Trust SEND Lead.