



Ormiston Maritime Academy

Accessibility policy and plan

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Policy Version Control

Policy prepared by	SENDCo
Responsible committee	
Date approved by committee	
Date ratified by LGB (if required)	
Description of changes from the model policy (if any)	I.

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I. Policy statement and principles

I.1 Policy aims and principles

Ormiston Maritime Academy values all of our students. We are committed to giving all of our students every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of students' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and have high expectations for all students. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our students' matter. This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our students, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

1.2 Definition of Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) of 1995 aims to end discrimination against people with disabilities and to improve access in all areas of life. Since 2002, it has been unlawful for schools and Local Education Authorities to discriminate against pupils with disabilities in admissions and exclusions, in education, and in associated services.

From 1st October 2004, it became unlawful to discriminate against people with disabilities by preventing them from having access to premises. Along with all other public buildings, our school is required to make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable access.

Our Accessibility Plan details the changes required to our buildings and to other aspects of our school, so that we fulfil our legal requirements, and remove barriers to inclusion for all pupils and staff with disabilities.

1.3 Complaints

All complaints are dealt with under the **OAT Complaints Policy**.

Complaints should be made in writing to the Academy in the first instance and will follow the OAT complaint procedures and set timescales. The handling of complaints may be delegated to an appropriate person.

The outcome of the complaint will be communicated in writing.

1.4 Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and / or government guidance
- as a result of any other significant change or event
- in the event that the policy is determined not to be effective

If there are urgent concerns these should be raised to the Principal, in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.

2. Contextual Information

1. The Academy is a two storey building which has disabled facilities and toilets. The upper floor, can be accessed by disabled users by a lift. Wheelchair access is available to all classrooms and offices. There are disabled toilets situated near to the main reception area and on the first and second floor of the academy. There is disabled parking on site. All areas of the Academy grounds are accessible to wheelchair users. In addition to this we also work closely with Risk management plans that are in place for these individuals in the event of an evacuation from the building. We also work closely with outside agencies, such as educational psychologists, specialist teachers, or the hearing and vision team to ensure that students with visual, hearing, cognition, or communication and interaction and SEMH difficulties can also access the curriculum.

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- promote opportunities for disabled pupils to participate in the *school curriculum*;
 - develop the *environment* of the school to ensure that disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
 - ensure that *information* is provided in appropriate formats for disabled pupils so that they are not disadvantaged.
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- Stop harassment and discrimination related to a disability
 - promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people
 - promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
 - encourage participation by disabled people in public life
 - take steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities through reasonable adjustments.