



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN POLICY

Reviewed policy agreed by GB on :	Autumn 2026
Reviewed policy shared with staff on:	Autumn 2026
Policy to be reviewed again on:	Autumn 2027
Committee responsible for review:	Policy Committee

Introduction

Willow Dene School is a school with children and young people with a wide range of learning difficulties and attendant sensory, mobility, medical and communication difficulties. Because it exists for children and young people with these special needs, issues relevant to mainstream schools, about whether a children and young people can be admitted, rarely arise. The school is on two sites, one purpose built building, including Toucan specialist provision for two year olds and one refurbishment with the needs of children and young people in mind

A further 2 class expansion opened in Spring 2021 at Swingate Lane. The refurbishment of Willow Dene Oakmere Road for occupation by KS3 & KS4 children and young people was completed in September 2016.

During 2022/23 the school embarked on a consultation for the expansion of Oakmere Road to include a Sixth Form provision. Willow Dene provided information for the equalities study and accessibility was considered as a result of this. This consultation was successful alongside a case for significant change to the DfE and work to complete a 2 classroom with additional multifunctional spaces standalone building was completed in March 2024.

Further refurbishment of the former PDC was completed in Summer 2025 with the intended use of the expanding sixth form and KS3 & KS4 cohort.

The school was involved in ensuring that the design of all spaces and buildings are suitable for the group of children and young people who will be using it.

This accessibility plan for the Willow Dene school site at Swingate Lane and Oakmere Road is:

To continue to work and plan with the Local Education Authority and Compass Eko Trust to ensure that all Willow Dene buildings allow full access to all aspects of the life of the school and provide a barrier free environment for children, parents and staff.

While occupying Willow Dene buildings, Willow Dene School will work with the Local Education Authority and The Compass Eko Trust to effect such adjustments and improvements as are necessary to give the best possible access to children and young people and parents. The following plan addresses areas we know will need care and on-going work.

The school exists for the benefit of children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs; it is fully inclusive, welcoming all children assessed as needing its facilities.

The school's on-going staff recruitment and training programme ensures that staff have, or quickly develop, the necessary skills to overcome learning barriers. New staff are well supported.

Nursing support and staff training are in place to ensure that children and young people with medical needs can attend school and have access to the curriculum.

Willow Dene School uses appropriate methods and approaches for children and young people varied needs.

1. This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with Royal Borough of Greenwich Council, Staff and School Governors and covers the period from 2026-2027.
2. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all children and young people, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
3. Willow Dene School plans to increase the accessibility of provision for all children and young people, staff and visitors to the school and will commit to the following actions:
 - To improve access across the whole school in all 6 key stages developing the learning environment as necessary such as the ongoing development of the Sixth Form provision at Oakmere Road.
 - To enhance access to the curriculum for all our children and young people which includes teaching, learning and access to a curriculum which provides a clear progression framework and takes into account all age ranges at Willow Dene and high quality remote learning when this is necessary.
 - To work collaboratively with the Local Education Authority in planning the further growth of children and young people population at Oakmere Road, ensuring that the building will allow all children and young people to have full access to both a core education offer and the wider community with safety and dignity. In 2026-2027 this will include the pilot of Launch 19 for sixth form school leavers.
 - To reflect areas outlined in the school development plan and core priorities.
4. Listed below are actions plans relating to the key aspects of accessibility at Willow Dene. These plans will be reviewed and amended on an annual basis. New action plans will be drawn up as Oakmere Road continues to expand and improvements at Willow Dene, Swingate Lane are completed.
5. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies:
 - School Brochure
 - School Development Plan
 - Teaching and Learning Policy
 - CPD Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Equalities Plan
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - Anti Bullying Policy

6. Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published annually to parents via our website.
7. The Plan will be monitored through the Policy Committee on an annual basis.
8. This plan will be available to Ofsted during any inspection.

The Physical Environment

TARGET	STRATEGY	PEOPLE/RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	OUTCOME
Children and young people arrive at school safely, comfortably and on time	Continued monitoring of buses and discussion with transport managers	Link Leaders and Transport	On-going	Journey time is reasonable for all children and young people, no curriculum time is lost. Children and parents are happy with the journeys to and from school.
All children and young people are taught with a peer group which enables access to a specialist learning environment in the classroom, curriculum differentiated to an appropriate level and access to a specialist skilled group of staff	Continually reassess as needs and children and young people change	Link Leaders	On-going	Children and young people can be placed in the most appropriate group for their needs without constraints of access or chronological age
Children and young people, parents and staff are safe	Monitor the condition of the school buildings and site and to carry out repairs quickly and to a high standard Monitoring of CCTV. Premises team to meet deliveries. All staff are issued with ID badges and	Link Leaders Premises managers All staff	On-going	Children and young people, parents and staff are in a safe and tidy environment

	access control cards and visitors are issued with ID badges. Site security as a focus with staff team. Electronic signing in for staff. There are regular health and safety governor visits and external audits			
The developing school will provide a safe environment for children and staff which takes into account the vulnerability of children and young people and other seasonal illnesses	Practical strategies i.e welfare checks, provision of PPE Organisational strategies ie welfare checks on transport. Communication systems virtual staff briefing, parents briefings, newsletters, reporting to Governors and Trustees	Link Leaders All staff Oxleas Team Bexley and GS Plus transport	On-going	Children and young people, parents and staff remain as safe as possible from seasonal illnesses

The Curriculum

TARGET	STRATEGY	PEOPLE/RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	OUTCOME
All children and young people have access to the Compass Eko Special Schools	On-going programme of CPLD as part of pedagogy core priority with a move towards enabling effective, self-directed learning School development plan Pedagogy development documentation	Link Leaders Visiting trainers Long and short courses Curriculum Leads Careers Strategy	On-going	Teaching is of a consistently high standard. Children and young people make good or better progress as measured by school's assessment systems
To develop robust practice and procedures supporting teachers and leaders to implement the exciting and innovative Launch 19 pilot with a particular focus on Yr14 and school leavers	Core priority 26-27: Post 19 provision Launch 19 working party to lead the work on securing appropriate provision for Post19 for all Young People leaving Willow Dene Ongoing support from Mary Rose School	Launch 19 working party Link Leaders Yr14 teachers and staff Careers strategy Local Authority SEND Assessment and Review Service Mary Rose team Curriculum leaders Health Commissioning	2026-2027	Complex school leavers have a bridge to a full and purposeful adult life and high quality transition to social care through a bespoke programme of study over the course of 1 year. They are considered as lifelong learners and valued and valuable members of society.
Meeting medical needs does not impact on children's learning	Training of staff in the appropriate medical competencies (virtually as necessary) Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy and	Clinical nurse trainer School nursing team School staff	On-going and adapting to meet needs	Children and young people with medical needs make good progress and are safe and comfortable in school. Staff are competent and confident in using the relevant competencies

	associated medical policies, document systems and procedures accurately.			Medical training database, training plan and medical training criteria are implemented efficiently
Learning environments take account of individual learning styles and provide a range of contexts for learning. Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all children and young people	Staff trained to use specialist equipment and communication systems Environment protocol implemented School development plan Team development plans	Link Leaders Therapists School staff	On-going and adapting to new entrants and changing needs	Staff are proficient and confident in methods, approaches and use of equipment and resources Children and young people make good or better progress Environment protocols consistently implemented
All children and young people have access to appropriate facilities for play, citizenship, careers, vocational and accredited learning	Resources audited and supplemented as necessary Willow Dene curriculum includes play and leisure/work and leisure as an enrichment area The Careers Strategy is regularly reviewed and updated. AQA unit awards are personalised for learners	Link Leaders School staff Careers Lead	Ongoing	All children and young people have stimulating and enjoyable play experiences and citizenship opportunities. Careers and accredited learning opportunities are personalised and appropriate.
Link Leaders have a current and well informed shared understanding of	Learning walks Observations of teaching	Link Leaders	Ongoing	Link Leaders are well informed and & have a collective understanding of

all aspects of access in relation to the curriculum and pedagogy.	Performance management Planning monitoring Line management structure Sharing of information at Link Leaders meetings Willow Dene Data dashboard	Therapy steering groups & representatives at Link leader		areas of strength and areas for development. All staff benefit from this.
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Improving the Delivery of information to parents

TARGET	STRATEGY	PEOPLE/RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	OUTCOME
To improve the standard and range of communication systems that the school uses to engage with parents and other stakeholders	Continue to enhance the school website Further develop the potential of parent communication through the EFL app To monitor School brochure for necessary changes Regular newsletters and parent briefing Improve accessibility of literature for all parents	Link Leaders School staff Relevant professionals Health and Family Support Advisors	On-going	Delivery of school information and quality of information have improved Feedback is positive Parents and stakeholders are well informed and supported.

	Monitor quality of communication in home school contact books. Continue to gather parent feedback through annual parent questionnaires. Encourage Willow Dene participation in Compass Eko Trust parent forum. Continued development of parent groups and regular parent learning opportunities. Use of social media to communicate with parents and other stakeholders including Instagram Health and Family Support Advisor roles enable parents to feel supported in a range of context			
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