



DARUL ULOOM BIRMINGHAM

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

**Next review: August 2017
(Reviewed: August 2016)**

3-year period covered by the plan: 2016- 2019

Introduction – Our Vision

Darul Uloom Birmingham is an inclusive, positive, happy and caring school where pupils, whatever their abilities and needs, have equal opportunities.

In this Accessibility Plan we will outline how we can promote disability equality for all disabled pupils, trustee in charge, staff, parents, and visitors to our school. We also have a duty to publish our Accessibility Action Plan (under DDA requirements) which explains how we are doing this now, and what we plan to do over the next three years from 2016 to 2019.

Darul Uloom Birmingham is not a specialist school, nor does it have any specialist resources. The school is solely funded by school fees and is a non-profit organisation. We are a welcoming school and absolutely welcome all applications in full regards to equal opportunities. The school accepts applications from all prospective pupils. Our admission policy does not discriminate against a prospective disabled applicant. Please note, that applications from prospective disabled pupils and staff will be assessed on an individual basis. Meetings prior to applying are welcomed and strongly encouraged.

Definitions of disability:

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) within the Equality Act 2010 as one of the Protected Characteristics:

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

Provision for the disabled

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), which is now in the Equality Act 2010 to cover education (listed as one of the Protected Characteristics). Since May 2011, the management has identified key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably (eliminate discrimination) for a reason related to their disability;
- to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
- to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.
- To publish and review an Accessibility Plan.
- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people.
- Eliminate disability related harassment.
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.
- Take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment – this is also an underlying Islamic perspective.

Additionally, for all our pupils, we aim to, in line with DDA requirements:

- **reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum by:**
 - ✓ setting suitable learning challenges;
 - ✓ responding to pupils' diverse learning needs;
 - ✓ overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

- **Allow participation in school activities within school and the wider community by:**
 - ✓ broadening the opportunities for all pupils to reach their individual potential. The objective is not equality in the absolute sense of everybody achieving the same, but the removal of what are often referred to as 'barriers' to success.
- **Maintain safe access to all areas of the school building by:**
 - ✓ Continuing to assess access requirements for pupils, staff and parents with mobility issues
 - ✓ Planning required works into the school development plan
 - ✓ Allocating adequate Capital Funding (within the constraints of the school budget)

Gather information from Pupil Data and School Audit

Our admission policy does not discriminate against a prospective disabled applicant.

Information about the needs of disabled people will be gathered through:

- Pupil admission information
- Parental / Guardian contact.
- pupil data
- SEN reviews/statements
- Recruitment process
- Discussion with relevant medical professionals and other outside support agencies

This information will help the school to assess

- the effectiveness of our policies and practices
- the actions needed to make appropriate arrangements to accommodate disabled individuals.

Additionally, information collected about prospective disabled users of the school will also contribute towards the understanding of how school policies and procedures impact on their ability to take a full and active part in community activities.

It is our aim to:

- encourage community groups to ensure their activities are accessible;
- give due regard to disabled community users when revising school policies and procedures.
- Ensure community groups abide by our Accessibility plan.

Using information from key stakeholders, parents and external providers, Darul uloom aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of disabled pupils.

We endorse the key principles of the National Curriculum framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum. The schools work on the development of a creative curriculum continues to be driven by these same underlying principles of responding to individuals needs and trying to overcome potential barriers to learning. It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. See the section below; **Management, coordination and implementation**

Making it Happen – bringing the DDA into action

Disabled pupils in School - Future Planning

At present we have no disabled pupils. The school has held brief consultation in regards to the following for implementation, depending on annual reviews and changes to legislation, over the next three years:

1. Install a wheel-chair ramp at the Coventry Road main entrance leading into the school.
2. Install 'disabled toilet' facilities on the ground floor – at the rear of block A.

3. Bring the medical room downstairs to ensure easy access for wheel chair pupils
4. Ensure that the playground is safe and 'trip-free' from any obstacles / holes.
5. Make access to areas of use possible for all pupils
6. Review lighting, signage, colour contrast, the acoustic environment and ground floor coverings
7. Review any changes to playground layout and other common areas
8. Review the provision of particular furniture and equipment to improve access
9. Conduct DDA audit inclusive of a consultation, see below

DDA Audit and Consultation

To ensure Darul Uloom is a welcoming environment for all individuals, we believe it is important to consult all stakeholders. The school is planning to consult relevant stakeholders; those who have an understanding of different disabilities and the barriers they present regarding the following:

- Pupils with and without a disability
- Parents of pupils who have a disability
- Staff
- Members of our community with relevant experience
- Local Special Schools and Outreach Teams
- Local Authority

Our consultation will include enquiries about barriers to learning and full involvement in school life. The following will be discussed:

- Movement around the building and grounds easily and confidently
- Having equal opportunity to access lessons and other activities
- How we could improve communication between home and school
- How we could raise awareness of the scheme and the issues addressed so that all members of the school community could be more proactive in including disabled people in every aspect of school life

Management, coordination and implementation

The head teacher will report annually on the accessibility plan and on other aspects of our DDA duties to the Board of Trustees appointed to supervise the school.

The school will ensure that all staff are aware of their duties under the DDA. It is important that all staff:

- a) Are aware of the disability discrimination duties as they apply to independent schools
- b) Are committed to removing barriers and increasing access
- c) Draw on support from within and beyond the school

Key responsibility for the school's plan rests with the Board of Trustees. They will:

- Monitor the school's vision and values for 'future' disabled pupils
- Oversee the contents of this plan / policy and set clear directions
- Ensure the plan is being implemented and that it is making a difference
- Revise and review the plan
- Evaluate the outcomes of the plan
- Report to stakeholders accordingly

Getting hold of the school's accessibility plan

A copy of this policy, as well as others, is available from the:

- The head teacher.
- School office

This plan was adopted by the management in November 2015 and revised in August 2016 by the Headteacher. This policy will be reviewed annually, but more formally in 3 years time (2019) and earlier if and when need be.

Points of Reference

Darul Uloom Islamic High School – *Equal Opportunities Policy*

Equality Act 2010