



# UTC South Durham Disability Access Statement



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<b>Approved by</b>	Governing Body
<b>Signed: (Principal)</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 10 June 2022
<b>Signed: (Chair of Governors)</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 10 June 2022

<b>Date to be reviewed by</b>	June 2025
<b>Review History</b>	Reviewed – Tom Dower Oct 19 Reviewed – Jean Bell Nov 20 Reviewed – Jak Heslop, April 2022
<b>Responsibility</b>	Director of Inclusion

## **1. Introduction**

UTC South Durham (UTC) is an inclusive organisation and is committed to the fair and equal treatment of all individuals regardless of disability. The UTC welcomes applications from people with disabilities to join the UTC community as students and employees.

## **2. Aim**

The aims of this statement are to ensure that:

- Applications for admission from all potential students are considered in line with the published admission arrangements
- Applications for employment are considered and assessed on the basis of the applicants' aptitudes, abilities and qualifications
- Disabled employees and students have access to the appropriate support and adaptations to enable them to be fully included in the life of the UTC
- The views of individual students or employees are taken into account at all times when their requirements are being assessed
- All students are fully integrated into the UTC and individual needs are assessed and supported as far as is practicable within a mainstream educational establishment
- Employees working with disabled people, either as colleagues or as students, have appropriate information, support and training
- The UTC takes steps to enable employees and students who become disabled during their time at the UTC to continue in their chosen career or course of study as far as is practicable
- Disabled members of the public can fully participate in public events held within the UTC
- So far as is reasonably practicable, the UTC premises are accessible and safe for disabled people
- No disabled student or employee is treated less favourably as a result of their disability.

## **3. Operation**

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is responsible for ensuring that employees and parents/carers are made aware of this policy and that the Disability Code of Practice, set out below, is followed. (Throughout this policy, the term "parents/carers" means all those having parental responsibility for a child.)

The Principal and the Board of Governors will have overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy statement is implemented.

## **4. Disability Code of Practice**

### **4.1 Environment**

Any future building projects will be considered at the planning stage for accessibility and usability by people with disabilities.

Evacuation procedures and escape routes for students and employees with disabilities will be carefully planned and published. These specific evacuation procedures are held by the SENCO and shared with colleagues.

### **4.2 Students**

Applications will be considered in line with the published admission arrangements for all students. An applicant's disability will not prevent him/her/them from being offered a place and integrated into the UTC unless:

- The content, structure and delivery of the curriculum are such that the student would be prevented from fulfilling a major part of it or
- The UTC would be unable to provide suitably trained employees or facilities to allow requirements of the National Curriculum to be met

The UTC will aim to provide students with a disability with the appropriate support to enable them to be fully integrated. The UTC will make reasonable adjustments to ensure the full participation and integration of disabled students.

As far as resources allow, the needs of disabled students will be taken into account in the design, structure and flexibility of teaching methods and delivery. Where a curriculum area is organised in such a way that a disabled student cannot fully participate, alternative provision will be made.

Students with a disability, or who become disabled whilst studying at the UTC, will be given appropriate support from employees to enable them to have equal access to the curriculum. Individual needs will be considered and addressed by all curriculum areas in collaboration with the SENCO and an Individual Education Plan drawn up on an annual basis.

The UTC recognises that special arrangements may be required to enable students with disabilities, including specific learning difficulties, to exhibit their capabilities and knowledge. Special arrangements will be made to enable such students to perform to the best of their ability by meeting their individual needs. For example, the UTC will liaise with the relevant Examination Boards in such instances. Students and parents/carers will be made fully aware of the process for making special arrangements for assessment and examinations by the SENCO.

### **4.3 Employees**

Wherever practicable, the UTC will:

- Consider and seek to employ disabled people in jobs suited to their aptitudes, abilities and qualifications in line with the Equality Act (2010)
- Ensure that employees with disabilities are considered for promotion according to their aptitudes, abilities and qualifications
- Ensure that disabled employees are not disadvantaged when the renewal of fixed-term contracts is being considered

Employees, who become disabled during their employment by the UTC, so far as is practicable, will continue to remain employed by the UTC subject to review by the Principal and the Board of Governors. This review will assess their ability to carry out the duties of their post. Help from related professional organisations may also be sought when considering not only the possible effects of the disability but also other consequential disadvantages, such as loss of status or financial loss.

The UTC will endeavour to make any reasonable adjustments to enable the employee to continue in post. However, options might include:

- Continuing in the same post
- A gradual return to work

- A reduction in hours
- Redeployment
- Premature retirement on grounds of incapacity
- Termination of employment

In cases where a disability is a degenerative, progressive condition that develops over time, careful consideration should be given to the selection of the most appropriate option(s).

The UTC will make reasonable changes to work practices and, where possible, the workplace to enable disabled people to work successfully, including those employees who become disabled whilst employed.

The UTC will ensure that a programme of training is offered to employees to increase their awareness of students with disabilities and inform them of appropriate action to be taken when delivering the curriculum. Teaching assistants will support teaching staff as required to help ensure that disabled students have equal access to the curriculum.

## **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Board of Governors and Principal will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the UTC's Disability Access Statement.