

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2016 - 19

Introduction

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) introduced a legal requirement on all schools to increase accessibility for disabled pupils. This requirement is now included in the Equality Act 2010. All schools are required to produce a written Accessibility Plan.

The School's policy is to meet all legal requirements in this area and take reasonable steps to accommodate pupils with disability, who satisfy the entry requirements of the school. This Accessibility Plan therefore sets out how the School is planning to meet the needs of disabled pupils and increase accessibility for them.

This Plan will be made available to interested parties at all reasonable times, as required under the legislation. It covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019.

Definition of Disability

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. References to 'disabled people' includes pupils, employees, governors, parents and carers and other members of the wider community that might use school premises for leisure or other activities. The definition of disability covers a broad spectrum of impairments including:

- long term illnesses
- hearing or sight impairments
- mobility difficulties
- mental health conditions
- learning difficulties/disabilities

Increasing Accessibility

Required action may be specific to the needs of the individual, rather than of a more general nature and will include any reasonable adjustments to improve:

- access to the physical environment of the School
- access to the curriculum
- access to written information

Access is periodically reviewed by external consultants and their advice incorporated in to the plan where appropriate.

Support

In drawing up the Plan, account has been taken of the fact that there are 73 girls, as of March 2017 who have been identified with Special Educational Needs as a result of a disability, 20 of whom are categorized as Mild SEN, with the remaining 53 Medium SEN. There are currently no girls with severe SEN or Education Health and Care Plans.

Identified issues include but are not limited to; mild autism, hearing difficulties, visual impairment, dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Support is provided in a variety of ways:

- in lessons
- through close liaison with departments, heads of section, the school counsellor
- with one to one support lessons with a specialist teacher
- via auxiliary devices such as hearing aids
- exam access arrangements
- through support from external agencies

The number of girls who have agreed access arrangements varies year on year. Many of these arrangements are organized in house and include the use of a prompter, a separate room, rest breaks, coloured paper and laptops.

Improving Access to the curriculum

Improvement	Objective	Timescale
Increase hours for Learning Support Coordinator.	Specialist teaching available to more disabled pupils.	Academic year 2015/16 and annual review. Actioned Sept 2015
Screening for all Y 5 and 7 girls and all new entrants in L6.	To improve identification of girls with specific learning difficulties	From Sept 2016 Actioned Sept 2016
Assessment of learners for access arrangements carried out in-house.	Better access to assessment for parents and pupils. Better identification process and more effective information sharing to ensure tailored support	Ongoing from academic year 2015/16 Actioned from Sept 2015.
Extension of additional Learning Support sessions in core subjects.	Increased support available to disabled pupils with a broader subject specialist base.	Academic year 2016/17 Actioned (English & Maths) from September 2016; for annual review.
Adequate number of trained staff to provide support to disabled pupils	Training for all staff available as part of INSET	Ongoing Additional training of English staff (Mich 2016) in support of above.
Install/upgrade power supplies in exam locations	Facilitate wide scale use of electronic devices in exams	With new developments and in line with forecast demand Actioned Sept 2016 with opening of Sports Centre.
Screening extended to new pupils in Year 6 & 9. Extend the use of SDMT screening.	To improve identification of girls with specific learning difficulties	From Sept 2017
Appoint additional PT member of the Learning Support department.	Specialist teaching available to more disabled pupils.	Sept 2017
Maintain links with external agencies	Resource available as required	Ongoing
Where feasible, plan timetable to allow easy	Avoid use of rooms only accessible by stairs	As required (not currently applicable)

access to classrooms for wheel chair users		
Investment in assessment materials/assessor training	To enable in-house identification of broad range of disabilities and thus facilitate staff to tailor support	Ongoing
Investment in auxiliary aids for disabled pupils (reading pens, speech recognition and reading software)	To provide wider implementation of access arrangements for disabled pupils	Ongoing

Improving Access to the Physical Environment

Improvement	Objective	Timescale
Provide visual and audible indication of floor levels in lift cars	To identify level of building for users	With all new builds New Sports Centre compliant Sept 2016 All existing compliant from Sept 2016
3D building fully accessible through the main entrance ramps	Full and easy access to DT and Ceramics for wheelchair users.	Academic year 2015/16 Actioned 2015/16 with additional improvement work to pathways Summer 2016.
Wheelchair access to all floors of new Sports Centre build.	Improved access to all areas of PE/Sport facilities for wheelchair users.	Sept 2016 Actioned Sept 2016
3 x new disabled parking spaces in new Sports Centre parking.	Improve parking accessibility for wheelchair users	September 2016 Actioned Michaelmas 2016
Provide accessible toilet facilities for staff/visitors	Provide additional facilities in PE/Sport	Sept 2016 Actioned Sept 2016 – 3 new accessible toilets in Sports Centre
Provide accessible toilet facilities for staff/visitors	Provide additional facilities in Estates.	Michaelmas 2016 Actioned October 2016 – 1 new accessible toilet in Estates Building
Lower access control keypads for wheelchair users	Wheel chair users able to access the building without assistance	As required (currently not applicable)

Improving Access to written information

Improvement	Objective	Timescale
Provide clearer directional signage to buildings	Way finding becomes easier	With Sports Centre build completion – Sept 2016
Inform parents that enlarged print copies of policies are available	Access to written policies improved	March 2016 Actioned March 2016
Provide tactile signage at door entrances to school	Disabled persons able to follow instructions for entry	As required (not currently applicable)

Policy last reviewed March 2017

Next review due March 2018

Person responsible for review Director of Staff