



THE DOWNS
MALVERN

Policy	TL03 - 11	Accessibility Plan	
Responsible Member of staff	Andy Nuttall		
Responsible Governor	N/A		
Approved	May 2023	Next Review Date	May 2024
Last Technical Review	May 2023		

PART 1 - STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY

This policy accompanies the equal opportunities policy and is written in response to the ongoing planning duties of the school under SENDA 2001.

This policy outlines the planning requirements that will in future be taken into account when developing the school. It also serves as a guide to prospective parents and will help in assessing whether the school is suitable for individual pupils.

The School is committed to an anti-discrimination culture and applications for jobs and pupils' placements will always be considered in this context.

School Environment

The School consists of a collection of older buildings situated within a 50 acre site. The existing building and infrastructure (pathways etc) do not lend themselves to easy access for people with restricted mobility. Most buildings are accessed by steep steps and many pathways are surfaced with loose stone or grass. Once in the buildings there are also many steps into rooms and along corridors.

The size of the site and distribution of buildings is in itself a severe hindrance to anyone with mobility difficulties.

Reasonable Adjustments

The school is committed to enabling access wherever reasonably practical.

The current buildings are extremely difficult to adapt but all future buildings will be planned in such a way as to allow both access and reasonable use by all.

The existing pathways and entries to buildings will where reasonably practical be repaired and renewed (including the building of ramps) in such a way as to allow access and use by all as a part of the repairs and renewals programme within the school.

Provision to allow a child to arrive early or late to a class and to have a specially tailored timetable will be considered positively.

Educational activities off-site will be planned in such a way as to allow maximum participation by all. When purchasing new equipment, its suitability for use by all will be considered.

Mobility is not the only issue and the school recognises the need to take into account other significant matters such as lighting and its accessibility and acoustics.

The school is committed wherever possible to improving access to all members of the community.

PEEPs (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans) are created for any pupil or member of staff who may require one in case of emergency. This is factored into an individual's return to work Risk assessment or a pupil's return to School risk assessment following any injury or diagnosis.

Notes

- All new build or major reconstruction/upgrades will address accessibility at the design stage
- The site and existing buildings produce major obstacles to accessibility (eg. Ramps on a sloping site have their own problems) Therefore careful thought must be given to all issues as obvious answers may cause other dangers

How the plan is constructed

The School Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has developed the Accessibility Plan with input from the SENCO. The Plan takes consideration of any relevant pupil and parental feedback. The SLT is responsible for preparing the accessibility plan and reviewing the plan twice a year with recommendations submitted to the Governing Body for consideration.

The SLT has considered the following when developing and reviewing the plan:

- Admissions
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Exclusions
- Education
- Extra-curricular activities
- Governing body representation
- Physical school environment
- Selection and recruitment of staff
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
- Sporting education and activities
- Staff training
- Welfare

The School has also consulted staff with responsibility for the induction arrangements for new pupils to ensure that the particular needs of disabled pupils are recognised in advance, that suitable staff training is provided and that any modifications to the curriculum or premises are fed into the plan before the arrival of the new pupils.

How the plan is reviewed and monitored

The SLT will review the plan annually with recommendations submitted for consideration by the Governing Body.

The school's governors are ultimately responsible for ensuring the implementation of the accessibility plan during the period to which it relates. A new plan will be drawn up every three years.

The plan should be read in conjunction with the School's Admissions Policy and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Accessibility Plan

Area of Accessibility	Actions Required	Implement	Responsibility	Status
(a) Improving Access to the Curriculum	Acquire specialist sporting equipment	On assessment of individual needs.	Head of Sports	Budgeted
	Acquire specialist DT equipment	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head (Ac.)	Budgeted
	Acquire specialist Science equipment	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head (Ac.)	Budgeted
	Acquire specialist language lab equipment	On assessment of individual needs.		Budgeted
	Acquire specialist resources	On assessment of individual needs.	Head Pre-Prep	Budgeted
(b) Improving Access to the Physical Environment	Phased introduction of wheelchair ramps	In Progress	Estates Bursar	On-target
	Phased introduction of hearing loops	On assessment of individual needs.	Estates Bursar	Budgeted
	Specially adapted furniture	On assessment of individual needs.	Estates Bursar	Budgeted
	Lessons on Ground Floors	On assessment of individual needs.	Estates Bursar	Budgeted
	Specialist manual handling training	On assessment of individual needs.	Estates Bursar	Budgeted
	Specialist childcare provision	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head Pastoral	Budgeted
	Facilitate easy access to stored materials	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head Pastoral	Budgeted
c) Improving Access to Information	IT – Any other specialist equipment	On assessment of individual needs.	IT Manager (via DH Ac. and SENDCo)	Budgeted

	Acquire specialist text books as needed	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head (Ac.) and SENDCo	Budgeted
	Acquire specialist writing materials e.g. coloured paper	On assessment of individual needs.	Deputy Head (Ac.) and SENDCo	Budgeted

Notes:

As part of our approach to SEND, for any pupils with access issues requiring learning development, staff will make arrangements for sessions to be delivered in the upper level of the sports hall which is accessible to chair users. Or alternative classrooms on the ground floor of the Quad in rooms which are Wheelchair accessible.

Budget would be made available according to need to make suitable adjustments to the facilities and equipment to ensure equality of access.

1. Such budget funds can be directed to meet emerging needs on a prioritized basis and whilst remaining mindful of the School's limited access to capital and operating budget funds, all reasonable efforts will be made to acquire specialist equipment or provide specialist facilities when needed.
2. The School will implement suitable adjustments if specific pupil needs arise, and will defer any implementation of those items where there is no current or foreseeable need to action these.

Recent Accessibility Developments

Location	Action	Potential Future Improvements
White House	Re-decorated with more suitable colour scheme Front accesses ramped Temp. ramps in place Staff training on Differentiation Training to help deaf children. EAL Easier access to new Library. Major improvements to toilets. Improvements to lighting and emergency lighting. Complete window replacement	Hearing loops installed Levelling of floor in Year 4 classroom and Year 5 classroom

Memo Hall	Ramped access provided around building	Hearing Loop installation
Main Building	Privacy screens outside toilets Temporary Ramps Boarders' showers screened	Permanent ramps Improved access from lower patio area to boarders' lawn Ramp to Old Library
Pre-Prep	Lighting improved Front accesses ramp available. Temp. ramps available Differentiation training twice. Training to help deaf children	Hearing Loop installation
Grounds	Development of ramp to music dept and Brock Meadow Safety fencing installed in Pre-prep playground Improve gates and latches in Pre-prep access areas Clearer signage and maps available	Improvement of access to market garden and small holding area (ongoing)
Music School	Lighting improved Front accesses ramp available. Temp. ramps available Diff. training twice. Training to help deaf children. Carpeting to aid acoustics. New toilets	Complete refurbishment in Summer 2023