



The Priory School of Our Lady Of Walsingham



Accessibility Plan

Reviewed by: Executive Committee

On:

Next review due: September 2024

Signature of Principal

Accessibility Plan

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy – which has been written using guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education and any further update including KCSIE September 2023, its Code of Conduct, Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedure Policies and the Use of Internet Policy, all of which are to be found on the School's website www.priorySchool.org.uk.

This policy also applies to the EYFS.

Equality Act 2010 - a School's duties:

3(1) The responsible body of a School in England and Wales must prepare—

(a) an accessibility plan;

(b) further such plans at such times as may be prescribed.

(2) An accessibility plan is a plan for, over a prescribed period—

(a) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School's curriculum

(b) improving the physical environment of the School for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the School

(c) improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled

1. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the School's ethos and compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and is published on the School's website alongside the School's other, linked, policies. It is closely linked to the Admissions Policy which directly references both the Equalities Act and the Disability Discrimination Act, and specifically to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The School fully complies with the statutory requirements of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent Schools) (England) requirements 2010.

It is understood that it is the responsibility of the School to monitor School activities under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and to review periodically, and at least every year, compliance therein.

2. It is important to stress that the School's overall commitment to its pupils, staff and parents is, as the Child Protection & Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying policies make clear, in conjunction with which this plan should be read, based on a clear Christian ethic, supplying as it does a broad framework, fully consonant with the development over the past 70 years of human rights legislation, within which all issues of equality, respect and non-discrimination are seen to operate.

The plan fully acknowledges the "protected characteristics" outlined in the Act, categories themselves the outcome of societal and legal developments in the past 70 years; moreover, it stresses the underpinning value of each person in the above light; and from that derives its unwavering commitment to treat all pupils, staff and parents as human beings of intrinsic and absolute worth. The plan and its compliance with the Act are to be seen in this light, enshrining in particular the welfare of each individual pupil entrusted to its care.

3. In terms of accessibility, the Whippingham site is on level ground, with only 2 wings, i.e. 4 rooms altogether, those of the old Victorian building designed by Prince Albert and built by Queen Victoria, after his death, in 1864, being above ground floor. Apart from these 4 rooms, all other rooms are on the ground floor with multiple door access. This enables access to all teaching areas. The entrance of the School, and to the auxiliary classrooms based in the old nursery of the previous primary School, are fully ramped to enable disabled access. There have been two further classrooms for Y5/Y6 built in 2019 on the footprint of earlier of an earlier toilet block/summer house and cycle park, and these also have been fully ramped to enable disabled access. They have been fully fire-alarmed, and have access codes for secure entrance.

Further partitioning of rooms required to put Priory School into the previously primary School site were originally carried out in full compliance with requirements for wheelchair access, and no further partitioning of rooms took place; as development of the School proceeded with increased pupil numbers, these partitions were removed, and all ground floor rooms had direct wheelchair access.

In 2014, an additional unit to house KS1 was added to the old nursery units which had been turned into science labs and an art department, and this new unit was comprehensively ramped for both forward and rear entrance and fire escape to remain fully compliant with accessibility requirements. This was further adapted in 2019 to be a unit for Dance, Drama & Music but access remains intact. Also, in 2014 with the completion of a 6th Form suite, further doors were fitted with glass panels to ensure visibility throughout the building.

In 2022, an additional science laboratory was added behind the original laboratories and art room, and this is also fully ramped to provide access and comply with fire regulations. It has an access code for secure entrance.

In 2015 a modern, comprehensive fire alarm system throughout the building was installed, with control panel identifying separate rooms. It is tested weekly.

Sports teaching is on the School grounds and separate sports field which also are fully accessible; internal PE is in the large hall, itself on the ground floor.

4. Accessibility is not just physical, however: it includes relevant and timely actions to: increase access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; this has already been successfully carried out for pupils with disabilities where the PE/Sports curriculum has been varied to ensure their full participation. This also applies to the wider curriculum of the School including such as participation in after-School clubs, leisure, cultural and sporting activities or School visits. There is a weekly staff e-mail as well as “special issues” where pupil information in particular as to medical, disability and learning support needs are fully communicated. This is also covered each morning in a daily briefing to staff by Vice Principal. The SEND department has a SENCO, with three specialist Learning Support Tutors qualified and experienced in their specialist fields. There is also a specialist KS1 Tutor with specific EYFS qualifications, and first aid training.

This allows full assessment of any extra times required for public examinations, which has been provided for appropriately eligible pupils.

It also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe.

There is furthermore the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities - for example, handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the School and School events; this information is available in various preferred formats on request.

In 2015 a major programme of upgrading equipment and furniture was embarked on to ensure maximum accessibility, further enhanced in 2019 when the new Year 5/Year 6 classroom unit was built.

5. Improved accessibility to the curriculum extends to the training of staff, in particular in First Aid, PE/Sports, and Safeguarding, and to the provision of critical medical and other information relating to any disability, within the broad framing of that term under the Act. Training will recognise the need to raise awareness for staff on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010 and to the relevant School ethos.
6. The Accessibility Plan will be subject to review and current aspects include:
Weight will be given to the experience of pupils with any disability as defined by the Act, individually and through the prefectorial and School Council structures, to enable a fully responsive and need-equivalent plan to be developed.
7. The School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.
8. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
9. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the School website.
10. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Principal & staff in consultation with the Parents' Association and pupil structures aforesaid.

Authorised by the Principal, Mr David EJJ Lloyd

September 2023