



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

(To be read in conjunction with the Accessibility Plan)

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Introduction

The Woodbridge Park Education Service educates students who have been referred via these main routes:

- Permanent exclusion from a mainstream school
- A special tuition request
- A managed move from a mainstream school
- SEN Panel
- Transfer from Cedars Primary School at Year 7

The Service consists of cross phase provision at KS1, 2, 3 & 4.

It also manages, tutors and monitors the educational provision for pregnant school girls and young mothers. The Service also provides interim tuition support for KS4 Looked After Children returning into Local Authority Care and for students under YOT (Youth Offending Team).

Our Mission Statement - "We believe that every child matters. All our students are equal and valued. Regardless of circumstance or background, they are entitled to personalised learning opportunities, which enable them to succeed as individuals and members of society."

This Policy seeks to address the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) and to further the aims of our Mission Statement.

Definition (Equality Act 2010) "A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

The three main aims of Woodbridge Park Education Service (WPES) are :-

- Not to treat disabled students less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled students, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled students.

Our Commitment

WPES are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all students, staff, parents and visitors, regardless of their education, physical, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs.

WPES are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

WPES plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors to each centre. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to :-

- Improve the **physical environment** of each centre, to enable disabled students to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided

- Increase access to the **curriculum** for students with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that students with a disability are as equally prepared for life as are the able-bodied. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the service such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or external visits.
- Improve the delivery of **written information** to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the service and events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

WPES recognizes the need to provide adequate resources for implementing plans and will regularly review them.

Professional Development

WPES acknowledges that there is a need for ongoing awareness, raising standards and training for staff and governors, in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

Other Relevant Policies

The Accessibility Policy/Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents :-

- Service Development Plan
- Curriculum
- SEN
- Behaviour Management
- Health and Safety

Condition Surveys

The Action Plan for accessibility relates to the Condition Surveys regularly undertaken by the Local Authority. This considers the following three areas:-

- Physical Access
- Curriculum Access
- Delivery of Written Information

It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this first Accessibility Policy/Plan and therefore some items will roll forward onto subsequent plans.

Attached is a set of action plans showing how the Service will address the priorities identified from the Condition Survey.

Accessibility Plan

The Accessibility Plan will show how access is to be improved for disabled students, staff and visitors in a given time frame and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

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