

Policy Statement on Facilities for Disabled Students

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Disability Access Plan
- Admissions Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Exams Policy

The School has a legal duty to be non-discriminatory towards disabled students and to provide equal access to the curriculum. It acknowledges its duty under the Equality Act 2010 and 2012 additions, and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021).

The School is also required by the Act to inform parents and students of our arrangements for admitting disabled students, the ways by which we ensure that disabled students receive the same treatment as other students and the facilities we provide for them.

This policy statement explains the School's policy under the three areas described above.

Admission

The School admits students backed up by reports from the current school. Wherever possible, disability will not prevent a student from selection who is otherwise up to the academic standard required and who is in a position to benefit from the education offered at the School. The School will assess and consider any special arrangements necessary for a disabled student on a case by case basis.

Equality of Treatment

Apart from any special arrangements that are necessary or exemptions from certain activities which are not within the capability of the disabled student, the School will treat disabled students in the same manner as the other students at the School as far as possible. The School is accommodated in several multi-level buildings as well as a variety of other areas on the site. Consideration is given to altering arrangements to facilitate access for students with severely restricted mobility - this includes access lifts between floors, in certain buildings, and transport about the site.

Care of individual children

The procedures are as follows:

- regular monitoring by the class teachers & tutors
- all adults working as pastoral/academic teams in monitoring and supporting students throughout the School day
- placing information on the front page of the database system to inform staff about individual students with disabilities
- e mailing specific staff of individual needs
- verbal updating by the Nursing Team
- many staff holding HSE First Aid certificates which are renewed as required

- training provided for staff to become Mental Health First Aiders
- working with parents and external specialists to support the needs of students
- provision of information relating to Student Profiles
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)

Sporting & Recreational Activities

- The School will continue as far as it is able to provide equal access to all school activities for disabled students.
- Individual Risk Assessment and management strategies will be provided for disabled students engaged in school trips or visits.

Further statements

- We promote a positive attitude to disability to include all students in all our activities
- We request parents to declare if their child has a disability
- We maintain a list of students with disabilities and any support as advised
- We monitor the progress of these students and the provision that we make for them
- We constantly look for further ways to improve provision and access for people with disabilities. We attempt to overcome problems by being creative and flexible about use of our present provision, as well investigating further development within the constraints of available resources.
- We implement reasonable adjustments to classroom management, teaching and expectations in such a way that these do not prejudice the progress of other students, nor their Health and Safety (e.g. labs, workshops, sports equipment).

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