

# **Accessibility Plan**

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**Independent Day School for Boys and Girls (Whole School including EYFS)**

**Our Lady of Sion School**

Reviewed: May 2021

Frequency of review: 3 Years

Next review: May 2024

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## **Accessibility Plan**

### **Introductory statement**

This Accessibility Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors of the School. The plan will be kept under review during a three-year period and will be revised as necessary. Formal review and update must occur every three years.

We are committed to providing an environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are further committed to challenging attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

The plan and other relevant policies can be made available in large print or other accessible format, if required.

### **Background**

#### **The School's layout and facilities**

The School is committed to making reasonable adjustments to allow disabled pupils to access educational provision at the School. The School occupies two separate sites both of which are located in Worthing town centre. The Junior School site is placed within a conservation area and consists of a large Victorian property set out over three floors as well as a much newer single storey Early Years building (completed in 2008). The Senior School layout is equally diverse being made up of the main Chapel Block, Chapel & Library and IT suites & Drama Studio buildings all dating back to around 1860. The main Hall and Gym were constructed in the 1950's and the main Teaching / Admin Block being the most recent addition in 1962. The Senior School is recorded as being Grade II Listed.

The Junior School has around eight general classrooms all spread out over the ground, first and second floors. In addition there is a ground floor music room, changing rooms, toilets and main Hall. The offices are located on the ground floor, adjacent to the main entrance, along with the medical room. Each floor has toilet and washing facilities. The Art room and ICT room are on the top floor and the Library is on the middle floor. There is a wheelchair lift that facilitates disabled access to the main building ground floor. The Early Years building is entirely on a ground floor only and has its own separate toilet and shower facility, office and kitchen area.

The Senior School has a greater number of classrooms distributed fairly evenly over three floors. The Sixth Form is located on the ground floor along with a Lower ICT suite. During the summer of 2013 the Drama studio was relocated to another part of the site and is now positioned on the ground floor. The main Hall and Gym along with two exam rooms are all located on the ground floor. There are a number of toilets located in most buildings and most floors, and in 2010 a purpose built disabled toilet was created immediately adjacent to the main Hall. The main entrance to the School now benefits from a permanent ramped approach as well as a stepped area. In addition, the main doors are electronically operated.

All new buildings are now specifically designed to address the issues of accessibility. In 2008 a new, single storey, Early Years building was constructed on the Junior School site. The new all-weather surface at the Senior School has provided a safe flat surface which will enable more pupils to partake in sporting / games activities. The previous surface was very uneven and slippery for large proportions of the academic year. A purpose built disabled toilet was created in 2010 and the most recent works have included relocating the Drama room to a ground floor area incorporating a ramped approach.

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In 2015, the Dutch Garden area was updated with wheelchair access from the Drama studio block. In 2017, two science labs were refurbished with improved access for pupils with mobility problems. We also fitted the Junior School with new all-weather surface to provide similar facilities to those detailed above at the Senior School.

The school has significantly improved its use of online learning tools to support pupils with specific difficulties. This has been accomplished by the use of our learning platform.

We plan, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School in the following areas:

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School curriculum
- improve the physical environment of the School to increase access to education by disabled pupils

Attached are action plans relating to the above. These will be reviewed as and when necessary. It is acknowledged that there will be a need for on-going awareness training for all staff in the matter of disability discrimination and the potential need to inform attitudes on this matter.

The Accessibility Plan can be read with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- School Prospectus
- Equal Treatment Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- SpLD Policy
- Disability Policy.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Bursar. There will be a full review of the plan every three years.

### **Welcoming and preparing for disabled pupils**

Where it is practicable to make reasonable adjustments to enable a prospective pupil to take up a place at the School and to satisfy the current admissions criteria, the School is committed to providing those reasonable adjustments.

In order to meet the needs of disabled pupils, the School requires full information. The School will ask all applicants for admission to the School to disclose whether they have received any learning support, have had an educational psychologist's report or have any disability or other condition of which the School should be aware.

In assessing the pupil or prospective pupil, the School may need to take advice and require assessments as appropriate. The School will be sensitive to any issues of confidentiality.

<b>Authorised by</b>	[resolution of] [the Board of Governors]
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<b>Date</b>	11 May 2021
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<b>Effective date of the policy</b>	11 May 2021
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