



Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form Accessibility Plan

September 2016

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The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled students, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- 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.

In 2005 the DDA brought in a duty on all public authorities to promote disability equality, this includes schools and local authorities.

At Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form we have a general duty to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled and other people
- Eliminate discrimination
- Eliminate harassment related to a disability
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encourage participation by disabled people in public life
- Take steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities even where that involves treating disabled people more favourably than other people.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised where necessary.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) as "A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

Key Objectives

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access the curriculum and so lead to a full participation in the school community for students, prospective students, staff and visitors with a disability.

Current Situation

Please read this section in conjunction with our SEN and Inclusion policies.

Our Aims

The school plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision to all students, staff and visitors to the school. Priorities in the school's plan are:

- To increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services.
- Improve the delivery of information to disabled students, staff, parents and visitors that is provided in writing for students and adults who are not disabled.

Action Plan

Once a need has been established an action plan will be produced in order that the project reaches fruition in a timely manner in accordance with the Premises Management Plan.

What we Currently Provide at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form

A range of initiatives and strategies are currently in place:

- Individual, funded support for students with a Statement of Special Education Needs
- Individual and small group support with outside agencies
- Individual and small group support delivered by our own Learning Support Assistants within the SEN budget
- Mentoring on a one to one basis for individual students
- Whole staff training on differentiation, teaching strategies and teaching styles
- Review of Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 curriculum
- Extra literacy and numeracy support for students in Years 7, 8 and 9
- Individual mentoring for students in Years 9, 10 and 11
- Student and Family Counsellor available to all students.

Our current provision for the disabled in terms of building is:

- The main entrance to the building has automatic doors to reception along with all new build projects including the Performing Arts Centre of Excellence, the Business Excellence Centre and Technology Excellence Centre.
- Ambulant toilet facilities in all main student, and a majority of the staff, toilet areas.
- Fully accessible toilets in the following areas:
 - Next to the student dining hall (South Site)
 - Mathematics corridor (South Site)
 - Learning Resource Centre (North Site)
 - English corridor (North Site)
 - Chemistry corridor (South Site)
 - Performing Arts Centre of Excellence (North Site)
 - Technology Excellent Centre (North Site)
- A rise and fall bed complete with hoist in the English corridor toilet.
- Fully accessible changing rooms complete with showers.
- Fully accessible swimming pool, complete with a rise and fall bed with tracked hoist leading from the changing rooms to the pool side.
- Ramped access to all curriculum areas.
- Hand rails on all stairs.
- Highlighted kerb edging.
- Rise and fall cooker, hob and sink unit in the Food Technology department.
- Adjustable height benching in the Science Excellence Centre.
- A minibus with a tail lift able to take a wheel chair.