

SENDA 3 Year Accessibility Plan (for students at The Ladies' College, academic years 2020-2023)

Accessibility Plan Reference: Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Education Needs and Disability Act 2001).

Note: The plan follows UK Disability Discrimination and SEND legislation, there being no equivalent Guernsey legislation at the time of drafting. Should Guernsey legislation be introduced, the College will ensure its practices meet local legislative requirements as well as those listed in the above Acts.

Introduction

This plan has been produced after a review of existing arrangements for improving accessibility within The Ladies' College.

The Ladies' College believes it is wrong to discriminate against disabled students or disabled prospective students. It will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled students and disabled prospective students are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with those who are not disabled. It will work to improve staff understanding of the requirements of disabled students. It will develop and operate an accessibility plan. This desire is evidenced in the treatment of current students.

The Ladies' College is located on a fairly compact site with the main buildings surrounding the central lawn. There is vehicular access to all buildings. The Leaf Centre (Sixth Form) can be accessed by foot and by road and is the building that is most removed from the central area.

The main College building is three storeys high and it is only the top storey of the old building (Science) which cannot be accessed without using the stairs in the Senior School. Melrose is a listed building and is restricted due to a lack of lift, other than the new Art and Drama block and provision that is made on the ground floor.

There are likely to be rare occasions when a student with impaired mobility is going to be at a disadvantage and any reasonable adjustment that can be made is made, such as moving a class to a more accessible location.

The Governors have had a long-term building development programme, which has provided new and upgraded some existing facilities. Although Disability Legislation on the island does not make this a requirement for The Ladies' College, we believe we are working to the standard of the UK to meet this need.

All developments are planned to improve accessibility for students (and adults) with impaired mobility.

1. Admissions

The Ladies' College assesses students for admission on the grounds of academic ability, through internal assessment of English and Maths and directly from Melrose. To ease the burden of the entrance exam assessment, the College liaises closely with the parent/guardian on the mechanics of the assessment to be taken. Liaison may take the form of a meeting or a telephone conversation to discuss any special arrangements. The College would be prepared to consider and provide aids to the prospective disabled student, such as:

- Large print assessment papers
- Use of overlays
- Rest breaks
- Extra time to complete the assessment paper
- Accessibility to the assessment room for impaired mobility students
- Laptop computers

It will not be possible to provide an assessment room with a hearing loop nor provide a secretary or teacher from within College resources who is knowledgeable in sign language to assist and oversee the assessment.

2. Curriculum

It is recognized that the curriculum should be accessible for those with disabilities. Students who have educational statements or who have been diagnosed with a learning need will be provided for according to their needs.

Students who are entitled to extra time in examinations will be given this in internal as well as all external examinations, and laptops will be allowed and provided, if recommended. By September 2021, all students in the Senior School will have a keyboard enabled device. Appropriate measures are put in place to assist those who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs, provided they have fulfilled the College's admission criteria. For most students with EAL, they are bilingual, and fluent in English at College.

3. Buildings and Accessibility

It is the policy of the Governors to improve access to buildings and facilities and this has happened over a period of time and will continue as finances permit.

4. Vehicular Access

Disabled parking has been provided in the main car park, outside the main entrance which has disabled access.

5. Paths

Wheelchairs have access via paths to most areas of the College, but specific parts of buildings (Science corridor and parts of Melrose) remain inaccessible. Ramps have been constructed to make access possible, but routes may be circuitous. Mobile ramps are not required.

6. Buildings

Recent building development has improved disabled access. All new buildings that are more than one storey have lifts, and are accessible by road, with wheelchair access to most rooms.

7. Lavatories for the Disabled

There are toilets for wheelchair use, wherever there is access by wheelchair.

8. Education

Departments teach in specific areas of the College, therefore access to some teaching could be restricted or impossible. Wherever possible lessons that are not equipment-dependent are moved to ground floor classrooms where access by wheelchair is possible. Each case is judged on the circumstances pertaining at the time.

9. Special Educational Needs

All information relating to Learning Support can be accessed via the Special Educational Needs and Disability policy (SEND), which is reviewed every three years.

10. Medical

Signed parental consent is required for the administration of prescribed medicines for medical disabilities such as asthma and diabetes.

All classrooms have digital projectors or smart boards that ease the viewing of subject matter. Using a device, whether the students or a College device, directly in front of students and having the material available through Teams or via the teacher is also an option. These will be helpful to those with a sight impediment. Larger print course notes and examination papers will be introduced as and when appropriate.

The provision of hearing loops is a consideration. It is neither practical nor financially viable for the College to install such provision. However, such a facility (or alternative arrangements) will be considered in improvement plans to existing buildings and in the provision for new development in the future.

11. Welfare

All staff are informed of any students with disabilities and of the need to be aware of potential difficulties such as:

- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy)
- Non-integration into forms

The centre of the pastoral system is the form tutor, who is the primary point of contact.

12. Activities and Trips

The College encourages all students to attend a variety of trips and activities. These may be sporting, cultural or adventurous. Staffing ratios can be adjusted to provide extra help when necessary. Occasionally it may be considered that the welfare of the student with a particular disability or illness cannot be guaranteed due to the nature of the disability or illness and the specific environment and the terrain. In such circumstances it may not be possible to provide a suitable level of supervision and care to enable the student to participate in the activity safely. This decision would be made following due consultation and discussion with the student, their parents, their teachers and outside agencies (if involved). The Principal will take a final decision about viability.