

SENDA 3 Year Accessibility Plan for students at The Ladies' College, academic years 2023-2026

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, with no equivalent Guernsey legislation at the time of drafting. Should Guernsey legislation be introduced, the College will ensure its practices meet local legislative requirements and 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 will make reasonable adjustments to help enable disabled students and disabled prospective students to access the site and curriculum.

The Ladies' College is located on a relatively 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 a specific disability may be impacted and reasonable adjustments within our current provision will be made.

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

1. Admissions

The Ladies' College assesses students through an internal assessment of English and Maths and an informal interview with a member of senior staff, irrespective of the primary setting. The College collects information regarding SEND for each child that wishes to obtain a place at The College, and they will ascertain if reasonable adjustments can be made to support the child to access the educational provision given by The College. If the child meets the acceptance criteria, a place is offered if The College feels the College can adequately meet the need of the child.

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, if reasonable, to consider and provide aid to the prospective disabled student.

2. Curriculum

The Ladies' College offers an academically ambitious curriculum. Reasonable adjustments can be made for those with SEND, and The College follows the JCQ regulations when ensuring students are eligible for Exam Access Arrangements.

All students in the Senior School have their own device as part of the requirement when taking up a place at The College. The online platforms can support students with SEND or who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs, provided they have fulfilled The College's admission criteria.

At Melrose, students with SEND or who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs are supported in the classroom by the teacher and, in some cases, a Learning Support Assistant.

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 to the time. Only reasonable adjustments will be considered.

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.

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. Whilst reasonable accommodations can be made, on some occasions, it may be considered that the needs of the student with a particular disability or illness cannot be reasonably met due to the nature of the disability or illness and/or the specific activity or environment. In such circumstances, a 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 whether a need can be reasonably and safely accommodated.