



GATEHOUSE SCHOOL

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Ethos and Aims

Gatehouse School aims to offer the highest quality of teaching and learning and support all pupils in the pursuit of academic and personal excellence. We have high expectations of all of our pupils and we strive to ensure that each and every pupil can take part in the whole school curriculum. We value the diversity of our school community and appreciate the contribution that pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities can bring to school life.

We have an admissions policy and criteria (available to view on our website) which seeks to remove barriers to entry to our school for pupils with special needs and/or disabilities. We strive to be a fully inclusive and welcoming school as our mission statement states:

“Children of any race, colour, creed, background and intellect shall be accepted as students and work side by side without streaming or any kind of segregation, with the aim that each child shall get to know and love God, and develop their own uniqueness of personality to enable them to appreciate the world and the world to appreciate them.”

We do not discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child’s requirements with the Head of Gatehouse School before commencing the registration process. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist’s report or a medical report to support their application. We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

We regularly review and take steps to improve the physical environment of the school in order to increase the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and associated services offered by the school. Recently we have installed a passenger lift between the ground and second floor and as further lift will be incorporated within the planned extension due for completion in 2017.

We provide written information to pupils with disabilities in ways that are user-friendly and fully support the pupils in their learning experience. For example, at Gatehouse School we have [e.g. installed screen readers in our ICT suites].

Our staff regularly review strategies to ensure that any potential barriers to learning and participation by disabled pupils are removed. We support our teaching and non-teaching staff with training as required to raise their awareness of disabilities and to enable them to minimise any potential difficulties for pupils. We promote the importance of using language that does not offend amongst both our staff and our pupils and ensure that, wherever possible, positive examples of disability are portrayed in teaching materials.

We take a fully inclusive approach to our staff recruitment and aim to appoint the best person based on their skill set and qualifications and regardless of any disability he/she might have. We actively implement the school's equal opportunities policy for staff in the day-to-day management of. We

ensure all staff are provided with the necessary support for their roles. We regularly review our staff's needs to ensure these are being met.

Generally matters relating to accessibility are discussed in the weekly Works Committee meetings. Accessibility issues are also discussed by the SLT and with the Head and Bursar as issues arise. It is also a matter which is taken into consideration in the School's long term Development Plan.

Action Plan

The following has been carefully considered, in respect of Accessibility, and are regularly monitored:

Admissions
 Attainment
 Attendance
 Exclusions
 Education
 Extra-curricular activities
 Governing body representation
 Physical school environment
 Selection and recruitment of staff
 Sporting education and activities
 Staff training
 Welfare

Gatehouse School's continuous monitoring of the above has informed the action plan below which relates to the following ISI Regulatory Standards on special educational needs and disability:

ISI Regulatory Standard	Description
Schedule 10 3. (2)(a)	Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum; Progress has been made in 2016 & 2017 by the installation and scheduled installation of passenger lifts.
3. 2(b)	Improving the physical environment of the school for the purposes of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school. Progress has been made in 2016 by making new accessible IT facilities available to pupils. Height adjustable furniture has also been provided.
3. 2(c)	Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled. Progress has been made in 2016 through the commencement of a programme to install new interactive video screens in classrooms which provide better visual contrast helping children with impaired sight. A new minibus was acquired in 2015 which has wheelchair access.

FUTURE TARGETS:	BY:
Complete installation of second passenger lift to access upper floor classrooms	November 2017
Improve general lighting in corridors and stairwells	Summer 2017
Install better outdoor lighting to outdoor areas (after completion of building works)	Summer 2018
Continue with programme to install new high contrast interactive video screens in classrooms.	Summer 2017 and ongoing
Provide a new on site medical room facility where pupils' medical needs can be attended to in greater privacy and employ a full time school nurse.	January 2018

<i>Policy Name</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>	<i>Last updated</i>	<i>January 2017</i>
		Governors Review	March 2017
		Next Review	Spring Term 2018
Circulation	Governors / all staff / volunteers. Parents		