

THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN



Approved by:

Governing Body

Date: Septmeber 2020

Date issued:

September 2020

Next review due by:

September 2021

Drafted by: Policy Committee

To be reviewed by: the Headmaster, Senior Staff, Heads of Department

Values

The school is a Roman Catholic School. The Catholic Faith provides a strong ethos which underpins all activity in the school reflecting the common purpose and values of those involved in the school at every level. Equality of opportunity is implicit in the aims of the school and its ethos, and in the curriculum, pastoral care, discipline policy and home-school agreement. As Catholics we believe that all are unique, created in God's image and equal in his sight, and that, therefore, all should be given equal consideration, respect and opportunity, regardless of race, gender, age or physical or mental condition.

This plan is also drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended in 2005) and as also amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001. It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by DfES in July 2002 and the Equality Act 2010.

Increased access to the curriculum for disabled pupils

Curriculum area	Accessibility measures in place	Accessibility planning
National Curriculum	<p>All disabled pupils attend all classroom & workshop lessons. All teaching areas for these subjects can be reached by pupils with mobility problems.</p> <p>Hearing & visual impaired children's needs are met as far as possible through use of appropriate aids within classroom, especially as some rooms do not have particularly good acoustics.</p> <p>Depending on nature of physical disability pupils participate as fully as possible with LSAs providing support in use of equipment (e.g. tools in DT workshop, science practicals). Some disabled pupils (e.g. cerebral palsy, brittle bones) have</p>	<p>To maintain policy of working to ensure full as possible access to curriculum for disabled children.</p> <p>To extend use of technology as it becomes available to enhance curriculum experience for disabled pupils.</p>
	<p>limited PE options but individual programmes are devised if possible. Assistance available from pupils within learning support.</p> <p>For pupils absent on account of disability/treatment/hospitalisation provision for teachers to set & mark work, greater use of electronic communication.</p>	
Extra – curricular activities	<p>No pupil barred from participation at some level except where health & safety issues prevail</p>	<p>Continue policy of encouraging all pupils to participate</p>

<p>Wider “school curriculum”</p>	<p>School events at Oratory Church – disabled pupils provided with coach/minibus transport if required to ensure able to attend. Access to certificates of academic excellence & merit, Commendations, contributions to House events open to all Religious services open to all in school chapel. Disabled pupils take part in school journeys with appropriate support. School Lunches – disabled pupils integrated with their form group for lunch, LSA assistance when required Break/social times - unless there are health & safety issues disabled pupils go out on playground with other boys, but there are alternative provisions – chapel courtyard with quiet seated areas, or in Learning Support department or in form room with nominated friends. Pupils with temporary disability (accident, post op etc) use seated area near main entrance.</p>	<p>Continue current provision</p>
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Improvements to the physical environment to increase access to education and associated services

Area of school/aspect	Accessibility measures in place	Accessibility Planning
Main Building (b. 1969)	Lift installed in 1995	Lift access at another point in main building is part of the major redevelopment and refurbishment plan of the main school building 2013/2015 (the “Redevelopment Plan”).
	Rules & regulations (especially regulation number 4) regarding movement around the building to ease congestion and risk to vulnerable pupils	Corridor width on second floor (main teaching floor) restricts movement of wheelchairs. Reconfiguring classrooms & corridors on second floor is part of the Redevelopment Plan.
	Two ground floor lavatories with disabled access at opposite ends of building – the second of the main entrance installed in 2006 to increase accessibility at key areas of the school	Second floor lavatory to be available to disabled pupils and staff has been installed.
Classrooms	Access and suitability.	<p>Door width – restricts wheelchair access – part of the Redevelopment Plan.</p> <p>Room size & no. of pupils/desks only two rooms on second floor big enough for wheelchair & 31 pupils. An increase in size of classrooms is part of the Redevelopment Plan.</p> <p>Sound-proofing between rooms – to reduce noise transmission . Noise survey has been done and refurbishment as part of the Redevelopment Plan will beneficially contribute.</p>
St Philip’s Hall	Access via the gym to platform end only, 4 steps to main hall	Ramp access has been provided and will be reconfigured to suit the new use of this area as per the Redevelopment Plan.

Newman Wing (b. 2008)	Wider corridor included in design for new building (2008) allows easier wheelchair access to Learning Support Department and freer movement for pupils with limited mobility	
Arts Centre (b. 1992)		
First floor - art rooms	Access via lift in Junior House since 1996	Wheelchair access route requires dexterity and strength, awkwardness of doors and lips.
Ground floor & theatre	Access via library lobby entrance, allocated wheelchair space in theatre. Access to back stage areas – props etc No access to fly tower, lighting box or downstairs dress rooms	
Junior House (b. 1996)		
Music Practice Rooms	Access for those unable to manage entrance with steps is via arts centre & there is ramped access to at rear Practice rooms – lift access	
Other		
Library	Ramp access to corridor since 2007 makes wheelchair access possible to ground floor of library Library mezzanine computer area not accessible but computer annex on ground floor is	
Rooms 54 & 55	Stepped access only – steep flight. Any class with disabled pupils not timetabled for these rooms	Key stage 4 CS programme uses these rooms – no practicable structural change possible, timetable rooming changes as necessary. No change but computer rooms will under the Redevelopment Plan be on the ground floor and these two Rooms will become standard classrooms, giving greater timetabling flexibility.
Houseblock (b. 1969)		

Fisher & Campion Houseroms	Stepped access only – short flight. Wheelchair dependent pupils not assigned to either of these Houses	Reconsider House block layout (BSF). Replace kitchen “passenger” lift (currently unsafe) – used to transport food between floors.
Chapel (b. 1993)	Chapel fully accessible since built in 1993	
Song Room	Design of adjacent Song Room – (refurbishment of area in 2006/7) includes door with additional width access	
Oratory Church (b. 1864)	Ramp access for disabled and accessible lavatory installed 2006/7	
Playground	Large open area, crowded at break time	Benches/landscaping on far side of playground to allow for easier access for vulnerable pupils. Working party (HM, Mr Rooney, Mr Flanagan & Mr Moran) already looking at playground layout to incorporate accessibility into planning & design
Fire safety	Pupils who cannot use stairs. Communication by mobile phone between senior staff and LSA to ensure pupils are moved to safest place in building until fire & rescue service arrives, if necessary school keepers and technicians deployed to carry pupil down stairs.	Current procedure places limit on number of wheelchairs that can be safely accommodated. The Redevelopment Plan will meet current fire safety standards for the completed work.
Lavatories/washrooms	Lavatories for the disabled with wheelchair access are provided in The Arts Centre, The Junior House and in the main building (base of yellow staircase and main entrance)	All disabled toilets are on ground floor; need to improve access to washroom facilities on other floors. Conversion of first floor staff toilet to one suitable for wheelchair access is in the Redevelopment Plan.

Improvements in the provision of information for disabled pupils

- New Learning Support Area in new building (2008) allowing easier access to SEN staff and information
- Information morning held for prospective applicants for admission – briefing, tour, Q and A
- Limited use of jargon
- Information on website
- E mail access for absent pupils

Duration, review and revision

- Accessibility planning is ongoing and subject to review
- The school is as fully accessible as possible at present, within structural/financial constraints

How likely is it that the plan will be implemented?

- Hitherto there was not much scope to expand provision owing to physical constraints of site & 26% over capacity in terms of pupil/area ratio. This is likely to be addressed substantially if the Plan goes ahead in all its proposed phases over the next two years.

Types of disability known to exist in the school community

- Mobility
- Visual impairment
- Auditory impairment
- Brittle bones
- Cerebral Palsy
- Degenenerative illnesses
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Sickle Cell
- Asthma
- Epilepsy
- Diabetes

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other policies and not as a standalone policy.

In establishing, implementing and assessing this policy, the School will have regard to its duty, as a public authority and within its ethos, to advance equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination. The Governing Body will review the impact of this policy on staff and pupils with protected characteristics as part of its regular assessment of its public equality duty.