



Accessibility Plan & Policy

Ratified by S&A Committee: January 2015

Reviewed: 1 February 2016

Reviewed: 30 January 2017

Reviewed: 29 January 2018

Reviewed: 4 February 2019

Next review: February 2020

1. Introduction

This Accessibility Policy and Plan has been drawn up in consultation with the pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Federation and covers the period from January 2019 – January 2020. This policy is drawn up in accordance with the Equality Act (2010).

We are committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

2. Key objectives

Westminster Special Schools plan to maintain and improve accessibility to new opportunities, improvements in physical environment, the curriculum for all pupils, and new opportunities for engagement with parent and carers. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions under the following key headings:

- **Physical access:** maintain the appropriate **physical environment** of the schools. The schools have both undergone significant problems with their buildings. This plan addresses this through improved maintenance and the implementation of appropriate contracts for maintenance of these systems.
- **Curriculum access:** continue to develop partnership working with local provision to ensure opportunities for **access to local colleges** when students are ready. The building of the Kennet West Skills Centre currently enables the schools to offer a wider range of post 16 opportunities to our more able students through the development of vocationally focused routes in partnership with Westminster Kingsway College
- **Information access:** improve the **information and opportunities available to parents** to enable and encourage them to engage with the staff and contribute to the life and development of the schools.

3. Achieving the objectives

Attached to our policy is an action plan, relating to key aspects of accessibility that we are in a position to develop. This plan will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis.

We acknowledge that there is a need for ongoing development of partnerships within the local communities and training for staff in enabling access to aspects of SMSC within the community

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- Inclusion
- Special Needs
- Behaviour Management

- School Improvement Plan
- School Prospectus and Mission Statement

The Federation will work in partnership with the local authority in developing and implementing our plan as part of the authority's delivery of appropriate provision through Education Health and Care Plans.

The Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

Westminster Special Schools Accessibility Plan 2019-22

Category	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost (£)	Impact
Physical Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain current management of the hydrotherapy pool at QEII. • Provide hoists at QEII to all teaching areas within the school to enable access for non-ambulant pupils • Improve and redesign the toilet facilities in the post-16 provision at QEII to meet the needs of pupils with PMLD. • Ensure toilet facilities for primary-aged pupils at College Park are age-appropriate. • Improve access to appropriate external play offer for pupils at both schools. • Broaden access control system at College Park School in line with Fire Risk Assessment actions • Ensure requests for emergency support function across both schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leasing agreement with Water Babies provides improved pool management and therefore reduces management costs. • Install hoists to all remaining classrooms. • Programme of works commencing summer 2019. • Review facilities and install child-sized toilet seats and basins • Develop the minimal external play space at CP through the provision of age- and developmentally-appropriate play equipment. • Resurface and create bespoke equipped play spaces at QEII. • Install access control to fire exit doors and internal boundary gates. • Finalise update of panic alarm system at QEII. Review provision at CPS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going • 2019-21 • 2019-20 • 2020-21 • 2019 • 2019-21 • 2019 • 2019-21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared maintenance costs • TBC • TBC • TBC • Nil cost – LA use of DfE SEND capital grant • FWSSCF grant applications • £73k est. • TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings on pool maintenance costs to the sch. • Pool use sustained • •

Category	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost (£)	Impact
Curriculum Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review curriculum offer to ensure it is meaningful and relevant to all pupils and focused on functional skills. Improve opportunities for access to wider range of vocational activities within partnership with local college provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider implementation of pre-formal, informal, semi-formal curriculum model Curriculum will develop new vocational training opportunities such as Hair & Beauty and Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019-21 2019-22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External training and advice (funded via Sch Improv. SLA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Information Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed partnership working with Westminster Parents Groups enabling families to engage more effectively and to provide a route for the LA to work with families Family Liaison Worker to develop range of opportunities for parents to engage with schools and each other. Ensure all information issued by the Federation is user friendly. Ensure all information provided is compliant with data protection law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family training / information meetings to be open to other SEN parents from Westminster and hosted by FWSS. Events set across year to include coffee mornings, parent workshops. Newsletters and letters incorporate photographs; Makaton signing and symbols are used throughout both schools. Regular programme of training and advice to staff in relation to GDPR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going On-going On-going On-going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil Grant funded Admin costs Admin costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links formalised with WPPG. EHT and HoS attend termly meetings. Coffee morning or parent support groups established across both schools. Makaton symbols used to reinforce all information for pupils Widgit symbols support access to information on the website.