



**Federation of
Westminster Special Schools
& Bi-Borough Inclusion Service**

Accessibility Policy – 2023-26

Approved by Governor Leadership Group: 16 October 2023

To be reviewed by Governor Leadership Group: October 2026

Context:

This Policy is a statement of the principles and practices in the Federation of Westminster Special Schools to ensure that all people with disabilities; children and young people (CYP), staff and visitors, have full access to the physical environment of the Federation schools and premises.

The policy meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 10) and the DFE Guidance to Schools on the Equality Act 2010. It is intended to continue to improve all aspects of the physical environment of school premises and other resources so that all Children and Young People (CYP) can take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by schools.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Federation Accessibility Plan which is prepared by Federation staff and will be frequently updated to ensure that our provision remains as accessible as it can be.

At the Federation of Westminster Special Schools we are committed to providing an accessible environment which values and includes all CYP, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, medical, 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. We also work with mainstream school through the Bi-Borough Inclusion Service and a wide range of cultural and community links.

The Federation is committed to ensuring all staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

If you have any concerns or complaints relating to accessibility in our schools or premises should be addressed to the Headteacher of the school concerned or the Head of the Bi-Borough Inclusion Service and can be dealt with formally under the Complaints procedure.

Governors are responsible for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting progress of the Accessibility Plan. The Governors has delegated authority to the Executive Headteacher, School Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team to review the plan every three years or as required. All reviews will need to be ratified by the appropriate Committee of the Governing Board.

This policy should be read in conjunction with;

Equalities Duty

SEND Policy and Information Report

Individual School Development Plans

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

The Federation plans for

- Improving access to the physical environment of the sites

College Park Bayswater Site and the **QEII Jubilee** Site were designed and purpose built as special schools and both sites offer good overall accessibility. Both buildings have not been without their problems and there has been an ongoing programme of rectification and improvement works at both sites and this work is ongoing.

At **College Park** this has been in several areas including improving ventilation and strengthening certain doors etc.

At **QEII** much of this work has involved bringing the facilities in the older part of the building up to the standard of the newer part and increasing the number of classrooms with hoists etc. Work has also included major overhauls of the doors in the newer part of the building and the developments in the Autumn Term expand facilities on the ground floor and widen accessibility. We have addressed this through improved maintenance and the implementation of appropriate contracts for maintenance of these systems.

The **College Park Satellite Provision at Hallfield** is on one level and was completely rebuilt and adapted before College Park occupation in September 2022. There was significant Senior Leader input to ensure that this happened.

The **College Park Satellite Provision at Pimlico** is in the process of being rebuilt to enable it to be suitable for the range of needs of College Park CYP when they begin to occupy it. There is Senior Leader input currently to ensure that this happens. CYP who use wheelchairs are able to access College Park using Hallfield Satellite or the main building.

The **Bi-Borough Inclusion Service Base at Edward Wilson School** is in the process of being adapted. It is on ground floor level and will be fully accessible to both staff and course participants.

A Soundfield system will be installed and staff and course participants will be able to access adapted written materials and a BSL Interpreter can be available when needed. The accommodation is "guide dog friendly"

Disabled colleagues (profoundly deaf teacher and two teachers who are registered blind) delivered accessibility training for the BIS team and to QEII staff to gain awareness or reasonable adjustments as well as deaf and VI etiquette.

- Enabling access for Children and Young People to the curriculum

Our curriculum offer reflects our belief that every moment is an opportunity for learning when supported by high quality teaching throughout the day and including all on and offsite activities.

The central London locations of both schools offers a superb range of nearby opportunities. Working with the NHS and Local Authority partners, the Federation invests in special equipment to facilitate curriculum access including, where appropriate, communication technologies, IT software, specialist seating, hoists etc. Both schools have minibuses to facilitate trips and these vehicles will be upgraded in the next year.

We will continue to develop partnership working with local provision to ensure improved opportunities for access to local colleges when CYP are ready. The Kennet West Skills Centre (co-located at QEII) enables the schools to offer a wider range of post 16 and post 19 opportunities to our more able CYP through the development of vocationally focused routes in partnership with Westminster Kingsway College.

Progress of all CYP is carefully monitored to ensure their needs continue to be met and that they make the best possible progress. Reviews take place annually for each CYP and there are many opportunities.

- Supporting the communication needs of Children & Young People and improving availability of accessible information to them.

Communication systems vary across each school, with each CYP using the communication method that suits them best. Further information is available in the Federation SEND Policy and Information Report.

We will endeavour to translate information and ensure it is accessible for families where possible if we have staff available.

- Supporting pupils with medical needs

Many CYP particularly at QEII will have significant medical needs. Very specific arrangements have been put in place to ensure they can fully access the curriculum at both schools. Please refer to the Federation Policy – “Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions” for more details.