

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Introduction

The Proprietor of Kingswood School has a proactive approach in ensuring that there is no discrimination against disabled children and prospective children in the provision of education and associated services in the school and in respect of admissions and exclusions.

Improving access to education and educational achievement by disabled children is essential to the Government's policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation in society and the economy.

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 amended Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 by introducing new duties on independent schools in relation to disabled children and prospective children. A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse affect on his or her ability to treat disabled children less favourably and to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled children at a substantial disadvantage.

Kingswood School is also required to prepare accessibility strategies and accessibility plans respectively for increasing over time the accessibility of schools for disabled children (the planning duty). This need not be a standalone plan and Kingswood School dovetails its plans with existing planning processes.

This document complements *Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled children*.

Increasing Accessibility

The three strands to the planning duty at Kingswood School are:

1. To improve the inclusivity of the curriculum.

The term "curriculum" covers not only teaching and learning but the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure, sporting and cultural activities or school visits.

Kingswood School already provides additional provision to enable children with learning difficulties to access the curriculum through the SEN framework and this will cover many disabled children. In focusing on this part of the duty, Kingswood School considers the needs of a wide range of disabled children and prospective children.

The school uses several documents as tools in making the curriculum accessible to disabled children: the statement on *Inclusion: providing effective learning opportunities for all children* from the National Curriculum 2013; the QCA guidelines on *planning, teaching and assessing the curriculum for children with learning difficulties*; and *Supporting the target setting process* (revised March 2001), published by the DfES and QCA.

Consequently, the school makes the curriculum accessible to all children, using the documents to develop the use of curriculum audits to review the patterns of achievement and participation by disabled children in different areas. Kingswood School uses a variety of approaches when planning and delivering the curriculum to draw on the different strengths and aptitudes of children. It also takes into account and considers staff training needs.

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2. To improve the accessibility of the site.

This strand includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. Improvements in physical access might include ramps, handrails, lifts, widened doorways, etc.

Kingswood School considers accessibility in all purchasing directions.

3. To improve accessibility to information for disabled learners.

The school will set out in its plan how it will provide the written material it usually provides for all children to disabled children within a reasonable time.

For Kingswood School the two key duties are:

- Not to treat disabled children less favourably
- To make reasonable adjustments so that disabled children are not put at a substantial disadvantage.

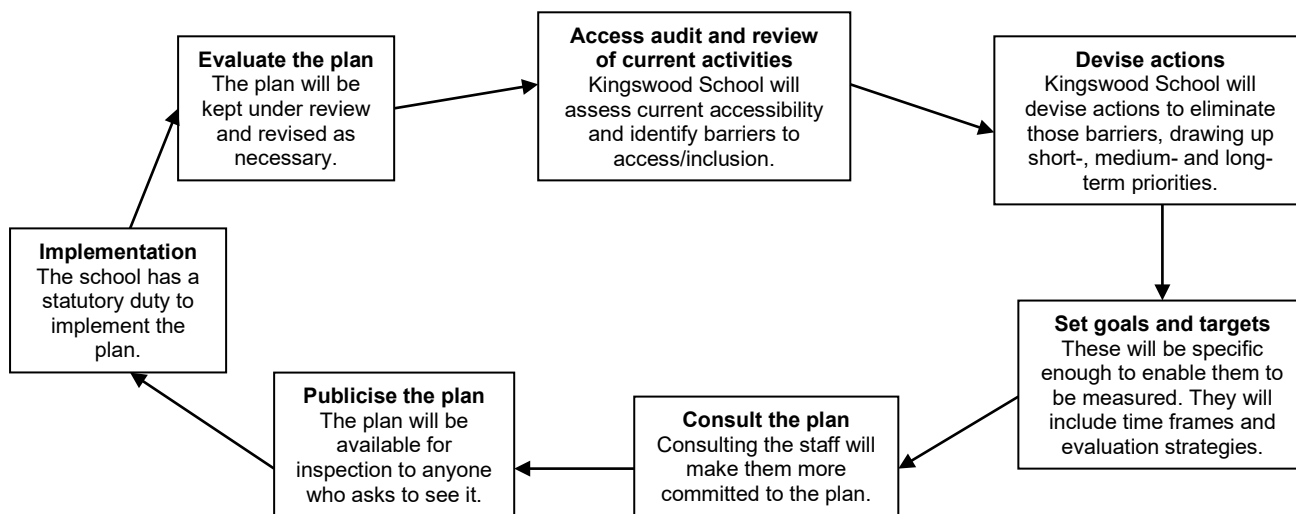
Statutory Responsibilities

The statutory responsibilities for Kingswood School are as follows:

- It must produce its own accessibility plan. The duty to do so is placed upon the Proprietor.
- An accessibility plan is a plan for:
 - (a) increasing the extent to which disabled children can participate in the school curriculum;
 - (b) improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled children can take advantage of education and associated services; and
 - (c) improving the delivery to disabled children of written information which is provided to children who are not disabled. This should be done within a reasonable period of time and in formats which take account of views expressed by children or parents about their preferred means of communication.
- The accessibility plan must be in writing. Kingswood School has a duty to review plans, revise them if necessary, and implement them. Adequate resources for implementation should be allocated.
- Kingswood School has to make its accessibility plan available to interested parties on request at reasonable times.
- OfSTED monitors the planning duty through their inspections. The Secretary of State can intervene where a school is not complying with the planning duty, and can direct a school to do so.
- The current plan runs for the period from 1st April 2024 until 31st January 2026.

Developing Our Accessibility Plan

Kingswood School develops its accessibility plan in the following way:



Implications for the SEN Policy

Although Kingswood School has a separate SEN Policy there is cross referencing with:

- Curriculum policies which take in to consideration arrangements for access, support and differentiation
- Inclusion and equal opportunities policies
- Partnership with parents
- Teaching and learning
- Curriculum statement.

Admissions

The Admission Policy at Kingswood School is designed to include the admission of children across the ability range and who also have specific learning difficulties. The *Disability Discrimination Act 1995: Part 4, Code of Practise for Schools* is viewed as the guiding principle on which the admissions are based.

Education and Associated Services

“Education and Associated Services” is a broad term that covers all aspects of school life. This list exemplifies the range of activities that may be covered by this term:

- Preparation for entry to the school
- The curriculum
- Teaching and learning
- Classroom organisation
- Timetabling
- Grouping of children
- Homework
- Access to school facilities
- Activities to supplement the curriculum e.g. drama group visiting the school
- School sports
- School policies
- Breaks and lunchtimes
- The serving of school meals
- Interaction with peers
- Assessment and exam arrangements

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- School discipline and sanctions
- Exclusion procedure
- School clubs and activities
- School trips
- The school's arrangements for working with other agencies
- Preparation of children for then next phase of education.

This list is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to be.

Meeting the Child's Needs

Kingswood School is determined to ensure that the existing good practise concerning the admission and retention of children is built on.

Example of current practice include:

- A child of secondary age who previously was not having her needs addressed (dyslexia) at secondary school and is now well settled at Kingswood School
- A primary aged child with severe visual impairment
- Children who have shown specific learning difficulties (dyslexia and dyscalculia).

Kingswood School is a dyslexic-friendly school and follows the BDA guidelines.

Attention Deficit Disorder (with Hyperactivity): ADD/ADHD

Whilst Kingswood School admits children with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia) - we rarely admit children who we *know* have more than minor attendant behavioural difficulties.

The above notwithstanding, there are a number of dyslexic children who suffer from attention disorders in one form or another and on occasions we admit such children on a trial basis.

We are always ready to learn more and to seek to put into practice that which is practicable and desirable.

We have children who are on medication (usually "Ritalin"). However we do not believe that this alone is the complete answer and parents may need to additionally receive behavioural counselling for their ADD/ADHD child. See also the section on "Medication".

ADD/ADHD children can cause concern and strain for staff dealing with them and may additionally affect the learning of other children. Whilst we sincerely wish to help the child, we have at all times to consider the good of the majority. If all of the measures listed under "Behaviour Modification" are showing no effect after a reasonable period (normally a term), then the Head Teacher will refer the parents to other schools who are more geared up to the behavioural difficulties of their dyslexic child who also has ADD, ADHD, etc.

Planning for the next three years

There is a determination to increase the skill level of staff in working with children with disabilities. Staff are developing expertise in supporting children with specific learning difficulties. Kingswood School intends to seek CRESTED recognition as being able to provide support for children. There will also be on-going CPD to assist the process of meeting special needs.

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The needs of disabled children will be very carefully considered when planning any further developments and alterations to the premises.

More Information

For more information see *Disability Discrimination Act 1995: Part 3, 4 and 5 Code of Practise for Schools and Dyslexia (Channel 4) ISBN: 1 85144 254 5*

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Read: 10th May 2025
Ms.M.Beech
Headteacher



Signed: 10th April 2024



Mr.R.Luckham
Proprietor's Representative

To be reviewed byApril 2026

