# ACCESSIBILITY POLICY & PLAN

| Status | Statutory | Date created | May 2004 |
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| Any other statutory names for this policy (where applicable) | | Date last reviewed | 15 June 2020 |
| Responsibility for this policy (job title) | Support Staff Director | Frequency of review | Three-yearly |
| Governors' Committee with responsibility for its review | Resources Sub Committee | To be put on the school website? (Yes/No) | Yes |

Aylesbury High School is committed to providing a full curriculum to as many students as possible and aims to enable all young people attending the school to achieve their full potential, academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually, and to support access to the school by all staff, parents and other visitors.

In particular the Governing Body recognises its duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) (as amended by the SEN and Disability Act):

- not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services;
- not to treat disabled persons less favourably;
- to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled persons at a substantial disadvantage;
- to publish an Accessibility Plan.

Buckinghamshire County Council has previously published an Accessibility Strategy[1] which identified that one grammar school in each area would be equipped to offer full access to disabled pupils. In Aylesbury that school is the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. Consequently Aylesbury High School was not historically resourced or financed to provide full access and continuing funding is provided on the same basis by the Department for Education. However, where practical and reasonable, Aylesbury High School will introduce measures to improve access for all.

The school has a dedicated Special Educational Needs & Disability Coordinator (SENDco) who will develop and maintain SEN plans for the school in general and for individual pupils as required.

**The Disability Access Plan**

The plan aims to improve access to all aspects of education within Aylesbury High School and is organised in a way that helps to remove any existing barriers to student learning and support general access to the school's facilities for all. It also aims to widen the opportunities for including more students within the school and to look positively at ways in which existing difficulties can be overcome. In this way the Governing Body is showing its commitment both to the school members and to the wider community based on the promotion of self-respect and respect for others.

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[1] Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy (2004)

The plan has three inter-linked elements:

- Improvements in access to the curriculum by:
  - Providing for all students a curriculum which is appropriate to their needs.
  - Ensuring that the curriculum is delivered in such a way that all students, regardless of any impairment, may benefit fully from it.

- Physical improvements to increase access to education and associated services by:

  - Ensuring that all the school buildings and grounds are as fully accessible as reasonably possible to students, staff and visitors with mobility, sensory and other impairments.
  - Providing appropriate educational equipment and physical aids to ensure that educational programmes in the school can be fully accessed by all students.

- Improvements in the provision of information in a range of formats for disabled persons by:

  - Providing for students and their parents/carers, information about the school and its curriculum in a format that takes account of any disabilities.

## Specific Plan Actions

**Improving access to the curriculum**

| | Targets | Strategies | Outcomes | Timeframe | Goals achieved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Short term** | To plan the steps needed to make the curriculum and extra-curricular activities accessible to a wider range of students. | To routinely review the SEND Policy and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion Policy. | New revised policies. | 2-yearly | More students gain access to the curriculum. |
| **Medium term** | Improve IT access for visually impaired pupils. | Where appropriate include large screens in equipment replacement programmes. Consider move to individual devices and impact this has. | Improved access for visually impaired students. | Completed in 2018 | All IT rooms fitted with at least 19" screens. |
| | Planed new build of 6th Form accommodation and refurbishment follow on works. | New developments to meet DDA regulations and optimise accessibility. Move library to ground floor. | New facilities to provide full access and refurbished to provide better access. | Completed in 2013 | New build designs incorporate lift, ramps etc iaw DDA regs. |
| | Further learning space refurbishment | Incorporate measures to meet DDA regulations where feasible and affordable | Refurbished facilities better access for all | ongoing | Lighting improved in Science and height adjustable benches included in refurbishment<br><br>Tower block fitted with improved lighting in 2019 |

**Physical improvements to the environment**

| | Targets | Strategies | Outcomes | Timeframe | Goals achieved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Short term** | Improve the site for visually impaired pupils | Improved signage around the school.<br><br>Revise signage following 2013 building project | Improved ease of moving around school | 2012<br><br>2014 | External signs already in place |
| | To introduce disabled access to main hall floor. | Fit some form of lift. | Improved access to areas for wheelchair users. | 2010 | Completed |
| | Improve disabled toilet facilities | When refurbishing toilet areas aim to include disabled facilities where possible: major toilet | Improved facilities for disabled students | Completed 2016 | Disabled toilet access now available across the school |

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| | | refurbishment work during 2013/14 will include disabled cubicles in Science Block | | | |
| **Medium term** | Future decoration/window blinds to cater for visually impaired students. | To take appropriate advice with reference to guidelines. | Improved classroom lighting for viewing projected images. | Ongoing | Tower Block, Science Completed |

**Improving provision of information**

| | Targets | Strategies | Outcomes | Timeframe | Goals achieved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Short term** | To improve communication with disabled students/users | To ensure the school website is clear, simple and easy to use. | Increased number of visits to website. | 2011 | Completed |