



SEDBERGH SCHOOL

Accessibility Plan 2021-24

Version	2023.1
Effective from	September 2023
Extent of Policy	Sedbergh School
Policy Owner	Bursar (Operations)
Review by	September 2024
Governor	John Warburton-Lee
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Publication	Website

Introductory Statement

Sedbergh School ('the School') strives to be a fully inclusive School and aims to ensure that pupils of all abilities can participate fully in the life of the School.

We are therefore committed to providing an environment which can be accessed by all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are further committed to challenging social attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

This accessibility plan has been drawn up in consultation with the management of the School and covers the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024. The implementation of the plan will be annually reviewed, and there will be an annual report to the Governing Body identifying which measures have been achieved and where any delay in implementation is foreseen. The plan is then updated with adjusted time-frames where necessary.

The School's Governors are ultimately responsible for ensuring the implementation of the accessibility plan during the period to which it relates. A new plan will be drawn up every three years.

The plan should be read in conjunction with the School's Admissions Policy and Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy.

Background

The School's layout and facilities

The School occupies a large site consisting of many separate buildings, some of which are listed. The buildings do not have lifts. Teaching takes place in fixed classrooms for each subject which means pupils move widely around campus. This requires pupils to go from classroom to classroom, often under tight time pressures using steps stairs and uneven ground.

Sedbergh School is predominantly a full boarding School based upon a traditional boarding house structure. The boarding houses are widely dispersed around campus and consist of multi storey buildings with accommodation; social and catering facilities located on different floors. Again, given the age and layout of many of the buildings, pupils are required to use stairs and steps for routine access and emergency evacuation purposes.

We plan, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the School in the following areas:

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School curriculum
- improve the physical environment of the School for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the School
- improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities
- have regard to the need to allocate adequate resources for implementing this Plan

The table at Annex A provides an outline action plan for ensuring that disabled pupils can access the School curriculum and facilities. Annex B outlines the plan for physical access for disabled pupils and the table at Annex C is pertinent to improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils. The table at Annex D highlights the areas where action is being considered for improvement of disabled access, based on discussions and a site visit with a disabled member of staff.

In addition, the longer-term plans for extensive modernisation of boarding accommodation will include provision for disabled access.

Welcoming and Preparing for Disabled Pupils

Where it is practicable to make reasonable adjustments to enable prospective pupils to take up a place at the School and to satisfy the current admissions criteria, the School is committed to providing those reasonable adjustments.

Where the School agrees to provide additional services, such as learning support, charges may be made at a level that reasonably reflects the cost to the School of providing that service. Details of costs can be provided in writing on request.

In order to meet the needs of disabled pupils, the School requires full information. The School will ask all applicants for admission to the School to disclose whether they have received any learning support, have had an educational psychologist's report or have any disability or other condition of which the School should be aware.

In assessing the pupil or prospective pupil, the School may need to take advice and require assessments as appropriate. The School will be sensitive to any issues of confidentiality.

Special Educational Needs

We will ensure that we comply with our legal requirements and guidance provided including:

- Guidance to Schools on their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to complement the technical guidance published by the EHRC Last updated June 2015
- The SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years Last updated April 2020
- Statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions in Last Updated August 2017

S P Ewence
Bursar (Operations)
Revised September 2023

Annex A

Increasing the extent to which physically disabled pupils can participate in the School curriculum

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Short term	<p>Ensure existing and new teaching staff joining the School in September 2021 and subsequent years have the knowledge and understanding required to support disabled pupils.</p> <p>Identifying the specific needs of disabled pupils joining the School in accessing the curriculum</p>	<p>Periodic training of all staff including start of term induction in providing support to pupils with SEND</p> <p>Periodic training of all staff in disability discrimination awareness</p> <p>Review of the pupil population at the beginning of each term to identify issues and develop appropriate strategies</p>	<p>Staff confidence in providing appropriate teaching and support for disabled pupils.</p> <p>Staff awareness of disability discrimination.</p> <p>Disabled pupils are able to access their choice of curriculum activities as far as possible</p>	Ongoing	<p>Flexible approach to disabled pupils.</p> <p>Success of disabled pupils in examinations.</p> <p>Effective SEN support to individual pupils with clear personalised action plans.</p>
Medium term	<p>Introduction of relevant equipment to aid disabled pupils particularly those with a visual or hearing impairment.</p> <p>Further development of SEN provision</p>	Regular discussions with staff, parents and pupils.	Improved ability in looking after disabled pupils.	Ongoing	Allowing pupils to benefit as much as possible from a Sedbergh education
Long term	New facilities incorporate relevant equipment to support curriculum access eg Hirst Centre opened in September 2018 with full disabled access provision.	Programme of staff induction and training, inclusion of information in Staff Induction Pack	Excellent care for disabled pupils	Ongoing	Pupils and parents pleased with the care given.

Annex B

Improving the physical environment of the School to increase access to education by disabled pupils

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Short term	Enable disabled pupils and visitors to park within reasonable distance of the School.	All parking zones have suitably marked disabled parking.	Improved parking for people with mobility difficulties.	Complete	Improved access to School site. Accessible and correctly marked parking bays installed within car park areas of: The Bursary, Classroom Block and Guldrey Lodge. There is an existing accessible bay outside the Hirst Centre.
Short term	Enable disabled pupils and visitors to move more easily around the campus	Review pathways and roads on campus and resurface where required. Full accessibility survey of both campuses recommended.	Continue to improve surfaces on paths and roads, eg – – Winder Drive – Main School car park – Carus House – School Hill	Incorporated in the MRR schedule of future works.	Improved access to School site. Winder Drive roadway surface was tar-and-chip dressed in 2020.
Short term	Enable disabled pupils and visitors to access School buildings and teaching facilities	Review access doorways with steps, consider manufacture of temporary ramp for main areas	Wheelchair access to main areas within School buildings Hirst Centre completed September '18 Guldrey Lodge completed March 2019	Reviewed September 2021	Improved access to School site. Universal portable ramps can be used on steps in Main School, Chapel, Queen's Hall downstairs and other

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
			Universal portable ramps purchased		locations with step access Access to upstairs in Queen's Hall 6 th form area has been improved
Short term	Assess boarding houses in terms of accessibility	Conduct assessment of each house, considering various disabilities.	Knowledge of appropriate accommodation for disabilities, eg Marshall House ground floor bedrooms and showers	Complete	Improved knowledge for management No changes made
Medium Term	New sports and recreation facility will offer community access for disabled users	Engagement of relevant local community groups to identify opportunities to develop wider access to the facility for disabled users.	Scheduled use of the facility by disabled users	December '18	Now completed.
Medium term	Provide accessible toilet facilities for disabled pupils and visitors.	Identify location, draw up plans for new construction. Full accessibility survey of both campuses recommended.	Minimum of one accessible toilet in each main building, eg in Carus new facility, Hirst Centre Powell Hall toilet reconfiguration planned and disabled toilet installed in front foyer	Ongoing.	Improved facilities for disabled pupils and visitors. Powell Hall disabled toilet installed in front foyer toilet area 2022. Level entry facilities completed grnd floor Powell Hall academic corridor 2023

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Medium term	Development of new facilities – Sixth Form Centre, Design & Technology Centre, new sports and recreation facilities, Queen's Hall	New facilities will fully comply with current legislation regarding disabled access	Easy access to teaching and social facilities for pupils using wheelchairs	2019-2022	Improved facilities for disabled pupils and visitors. First floor of Queen's Hall (6 th Form) new accessible toilet facility installed 2020.
Long term	Provide suitable boarding accommodation for disabled pupils.	Full review of boarding accommodation including ablutions. Full accessibility survey of both campuses recommended and include actions in the specification for the modernisation project.	Modernisation of boarding houses	On commencement of modernisation programme	Improved access to Sedbergh education for disabled pupils. Level entry grnd floor dorms upgraded in School House, Sedgwick House and Winder House 2022/2023

Annex C**Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils**

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Short term	Ensuring availability of written material in alternative formats.	Research sources of alternative formats, including use of coloured backgrounds to aid dyslexic pupils, including costings.	If needed, the Learning Support department could provide written information on alternative formats.	Ongoing	Delivery of information to disabled pupils is improved. Learning support ready to accept year 9 blind pupil in Sept 2021
Short term	Ensure appropriate software in use to aid the use of computers by visually impaired pupils and staff	Research and installation	Visually impaired pupils and staff have greater access to computer facilities Work with pupil's home local authorities on advice on managing visually impaired pupils	Ongoing	Delivery of information to disabled pupils is improved. Learning support ready to accept year 9 blind pupil in Sept 2021
Medium term	Ensure staff know what resources are available and what support they have.	Training and awareness sessions Learning support leading in this area	Better provision of teaching aids	Inset – ongoing	Pupils better catered for.
Long term	Maintain staff awareness of provision of resources for pupils with disabilities	Programme of staff induction and training.	Excellent provision of resources for disabled pupils	Inset – ongoing	Pupils and parents pleased with the provision.

Improving the delivery of information to pupils with special needs

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals achieved
Dyslexia	Ensuring support to aid learning	Learning Support department gives support to pupils and provide staff induction and training. Additional staff resources in the Learning Support department	Pupils work and organisational skills benefit from the support provided. Support for dyslexic pupils available during exams	Annual staff training and induction for new staff	Pupils properly supported Bank of supporting staff for exam timetable as scribes and readers
Hearing problems	Ensure staff know what resources are available and what support they have.	Training and awareness sessions	Pupils with hearing problems are supported	Training and induction for staff involved with those pupils	Pupils better catered for.
EAL pupils	Needs of each pupil is identified and support strategies put in place.	Programme of staff induction and training to include ideas of developing vocabulary and awareness of cultural differences.	Excellent provision of resources for EAL pupils	Annual staff training and induction for new staff	Pupils for whom English is an Addition Language have a much improved understanding of the language.
Pupils with ongoing medical conditions	Needs of each pupil is identified and support strategies put in place.	Individual strategies and work plans in place.	Allow pupils with ongoing medical conditions to attend School where possible	Ongoing Policy in place	Pupils properly supported

Annex D**SEDBERGH SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN – REQUIREMENTS AS AT 31st SEPTEMBER 2019**

The following requirements are a combination of work which can be addressed immediately and longer-term investments into accessibility which should be included in the MR&R planning process.

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
	Car Parking		
1.	Chapel and Queen's Hall upstairs	Not marked but signed at rear door of Chapel. Disabled access sign on gate from road and sign in hedge. Ongoing – Suitability check needed.	Clerk of Works
2.	Swimming Pool, Queen's Hall and Bursary	Space set out at Queen's Hall end of existing car park on gravel. Completed – An initial space has been set out at Queen's Hall and a fully compliant accessible parking space has been added to the Bursary parking area.	Clerk of Works/MRR
3.	Back Lane	Approach Sedbergh Parish Council for at least one designated disabled parking space to be added for visitors to Lupton, Carus, Library and OS/Foundation. Completed - Back Lane and Loftus Hill car park have disabled parking bays.	COO or Bursar (Operations)
	Disabled Toilets	Signed, with suitable door and wheelchair access to room and toilet. Equipped with appropriate rails etc.	

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
4.	Powell Hall Staff Toilet	Now to be added to re-location of pupil toilets due to be completed in 2023 as part of the Powell Hall refurbishment and Tech Centre plan.	Clerk of Works
5.	Powell Hall Foyer Toilets	Completed 2022 as part of the Powell Hall refurbishment.	MR&R
6.	Main School Guest Toilet	Needs some improvement including signs, rails and grab handles. Summer Works – Summer 2021 – Improvements works completed, grab rails to complete.	Clerk of Works
7.	Main School Pupil Toilets	Completed –addressed as part of the enabling works for the Tech Centre Project.	MR&R
8.	Swimming Pool	Better signs and key access required. Route to be clear of vehicles – no parking signs? Partially completed, remainder to be added to MR&R 22/23.	Clerk of Works
9.	Old Sports Hall	Better signs required to advertise access – Ongoing, solution needed re steps.	Clerk of Works
	Grab Rails	For the disabled and older people, including blind / partially sighted grab rails to help access up steps to door handles and entry to buildings. All need to be in keeping with the age of the buildings and samples cleared by the Principal and COO	Estates Manager

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
		All rails and grab rails are subject to planning applications and listed building consent. Generally drilling into listed buildings is not allowed	
10.	Main School	At HM's entrance. Ongoing - Surveyed – Option for freestanding hand rails to be fabricated (estimate £2,500). Short Term – Listed building application being compiled for grab handle to be permanently installed both sides. – Unlikely to be allowed. Longer Term – required sandstone ramp and ornate hand rails to be installed and further Listed Building Consent necessary.	Clerk of Works
11.	Chapel	At rear door. Completed – building consent granted and rails fitted April 22.	Clerk of Works
12.	Side of Queen's Hall	Add to middle of steps up to the Old Sports Hall. Not approved as this would create an unacceptable barrier preventing cross-flow of people from different directions. Identify alternatives could be used in that area to support blind pupils. Item closed – not approved as would create an unacceptable barrier preventing cross-flow of people from different directions.	Clerk of Works

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
13.	Playing Field	Add handrail to side of steps down to track. Completed 2022 – Option to use an alternative, safer route down onto the athletics track.	Bursar Operations/Estates Manager/Clerk of Works
14.	Road Crossings	Major road crossings require require tactile paving. Issue has been raised with South Lakeland Council who have responsibility for any ingress onto public highways. Ongoing.	Bursar Operations
	Improvements to Door Access		
15.	Powell Hall access from Hall to MFL corridor	Automatic door opening. Included within the Powell Hall refurbishment plan.	MR&R
16.	Chapel Front Door	Rail to steps. Look at levelling the steps Completed – not feasible. Disabled access by rear door only.	Clerk of Works
17.	Bell for Bursary Door	So disabled person can alert Bursary reception without having to enter Bursary. Completed - door bell is installed.	Clerk of Works
	Wider School Consideration	Items to be added over time according to need	
18.	Accessibility on Red Routes	All main routes to be considered for steps, curb access and crossing points. Also uneven paths and gravel. Access in conjunction with tarmac project. Completed.	MR&R study

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
19.	Boarding Houses	All to be considered in line with proposals above, including: disabled parking, toilet access, grab rails and wheelchair access. Considerations to included permanently or temporarily disabled pupils Ongoing development project.	MR&R study
20.	Events	Reserved seating in aisles, seats removed to make space for vehicle access Ongoing.	Event organisers – Drama, Music, etc
21.	Website and communication	To be updated with disabled access information and point of contact. Completed – Accessibility statement now on website for both Schools.	Webmaster
22.	Accessibility map on web site	Suitable map which can be available on the website or sent on request. Should include: wheelchair routes, awkward curbs, slopes, grab rails, disabled toilets and car parking spaces. Completed – covered by statement on websites.	Head of Estates Webmaster
23.	Notice on website about assistance dogs	Sedbergh School welcomes registered assistance dogs. Completed.	Webmaster
24.	Contact number	Select a suitable point of contact for accessibility and advertise on the website. Completed.	School Secretary Webmaster

Serial	Item	Description	Responsible
Clerk of Works and Immediate Resolution			
25.	Brail signage	Also partially sighted. Ongoing.	
26.	Consideration for deaf / partially deaf	Hearing ring in main auditoriums. Completed – procurement of mobile hearing loop for both sites.	
27.	Consideration for blind / partially sighted crossing provision	Contact Local Council re main road crossing provision Ongoing.	Bursar (Operations)/ Estates Manager/Clerk of Works