

JOHN WILLMOTT SCHOOL - DISABLED ACCESS POLICY

The policy set out below has been drawn up in response to the School's statutory obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Part 3) which became law on 1 October 2004. Under this part of the DDA providers of facilities must ensure that members of the public (pupils, parents, guests and visitors) are not discriminated against as a result of any disability whilst visiting the School.

The School is required by the Act to inform parents and pupils of our arrangements for admitting disabled pupils, the ways by which we ensure that disabled pupils receive the same treatment as other pupils and the facilities we provide for disabled pupils.

John Willmott School was built in the 1950's and parts of the school's premises were not designed for disabled access. However, the school does have facilities to make ground floor areas accessible for disabled visitors / pupils.

Admission

Wherever possible, disability will not prevent a child from selection if he/she would have been selected under the school admissions policy. The School will assess any special arrangements necessary for a disabled pupil on a case by case basis and, provided that such arrangements can be made without causing undue disruption to the normal operation of the School or significant additional cost, the disability will not prevent admission.

Reasonable Adjustment

The School is also required to make reasonable adjustments to enable wider access for disabled people. In the case of pupils this will mean adapting the allocation of classrooms to enable the disabled pupil to attend lessons with his/her class.

Facilities

A number of simple measures have been introduced at the School to assist disabled people in getting around. These measures include:

- **Disabled WC**. There is a disabled WC in the English Corridor.
- **Stair Lift**. There is a stair lift available in the Main Reception Area which can be used to access the Main Hall and then through on level corridors to the DT and Gym facilities.
- **External Lift** There is the lift outside of the library area up to the covered way
- **Sound Field** There are several classrooms fitted with sound field systems

- **Networkable ICT (wireless)**: This has increased the extent to which pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Procedures

Most important of all in the School's Disabled Access Policy is the manner with which we receive disabled visitors. People with disabilities are used to the frustrations of life in an able bodied person's world. It behoves all members of the School – staff and pupils, to show them consideration, courtesy and a willingness to assist. Common sense and good manners should be sufficient guidance. However, it is important that all members of the School are aware of the various disabled facilities and can give clear directions.

Disabled visitors must be expected at the School at any time, and more often than not, we will receive no prior warning. On these occasions it is important that we are all in a position to assist as may be required.

At other times the School would expect to be advised that a certain visitor is disabled. Indeed we will hope to encourage this forewarning.

Fire Precautions. Pupils and visitors in wheelchairs should not be expected to visit classrooms above the ground floor. Pupils with temporary disabilities (crutches) should be allocated a suitable person to assist them out of the building in an emergency evacuation.

NB For fear of stating the obvious it is worth reminding everyone that when assisting a disabled person it is important to address your remarks directly at that person and not to defer automatically to any helper.