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# THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624

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## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN POLICY

Policy adopted	Full Governors' Meeting March 2010
Policy circulated	March 2010
Review policy	To be reviewed every 3 years

Legislation: Equality Act 2010: Schedule 10, Paragraph 3 and Disability  
Discrimination (prescribed Times and Periods for Accessibility Strategies and Plans  
for Schools) (England) Regulations, 2005

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL ACCESS**

The school's short and long term Building and Maintenance programmes include consideration of DDA requirements as part of the project planning and prioritisation process. The school had a DDA (Disability Discrimination Act 1995) inspection (report issued 1/04), and has prioritised the steps to be taken to improve access for the disabled. Selective action to improve provision for disabled pupils/staff is considered before the "summer programme" of works is determined each academic year and in detail when undertaking any major projects. These plans take into consideration possible improvements for wheelchair access from both use of facilities and health and safety perspectives.

Recognising the age of significant areas of the premises we are constrained regarding whole-scale structural changes, however, wherever practical and reasonable the school looks to identify best practice and applies DDA principles as part of any significant purchasing decision (eg redecorating scheme colour contrast designs).

The Sports/Dining Hall Project (commissioned January 2006) was designed to be DDA compliant so incorporates disabled changing and toilet facilities and special access provision and parking for staff/pupils using wheelchairs. Internal decoration was designed sympathetically to cater for the visually impaired. The conversion of the boys' gym to the Seward studio gave the opportunity to provide a lift, giving access to disabled students/adults/visitors to the upper storey of the whole of the North block. This was significant progress towards the school's aims of enabling every room to be easily accessible to a wheelchair.

### **ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM**

With all 3 buildings served by a lift, there is no curriculum area without wheelchair access. The only part of the building without life access is the South Block and there are workarounds if a student were to be timetabled in this area. There are no specialist rooms, so the room would be switched for one on the ground floor.

With regard to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2001) the school considers all applicants under the admissions criteria and disability is not a handicap with reference to admission. The school application form invites applicants to provide information about disability in order to enable the school to plan efficiently.

The school's policy is to ensure that all pupils are treated equally and no disabled pupil is denied an opportunity to take part in any activity, unless the pupil is physically incapable, causing danger to him/herself or others.

Mark Garbett 22.10.09