

CATERHAM SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27

INTRODUCTION

Caterham School, founded in 1811, is a co-educational independent day and boarding school. It is located in the Harestone Valley in mid-Surrey, and has a Christian foundation. The school aims to foster an environment in which pupils are happy, secure, confident and valued, and in which they achieve their academic potential, follow a wide-ranging and enriching curriculum and co-curriculum, and experience independent thinking and lifelong learning through innovative educational practice. The school is committed to high standards in pastoral care, and aims to promote strong spiritual and moral values, self-discipline, responsibility, and respect for others and the environment.

The School is based in the Caterham Valley with school buildings located up both sides of the valley. The Prep School is based in two large Edwardian houses with additional adjacent accommodation.

Situated in its own spacious grounds alongside the Senior School, the Prep School was established as a boys' day and boarding school in 1935. It has developed into a School for day pupils with a pre-prep department which caters for pupils from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Years 1 and 2 in separate accommodation.

The most recent major changes to the school site were an extension to the Centre for Performing Arts in 2016, a new sports pavilion in 2017 and, most recently, the Sports Hall extension, opened in late September 2023.

Caterham School ('the School') strives to be a fully inclusive and welcoming school and therefore aims to ensure that each and every pupil can participate fully in the life of the School.

The School is also mindful that parents of pupils and prospective pupils may have disabilities and supports their access to the School wherever possible through special parking bays, ramps, lifts and through virtual means where physical access is not possible.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

A child or young person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

The School's Accessibility Plan contains relevant actions to:

- increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the School's curriculum
- improve the School's physical environment for the purpose of increasing the extent to which pupils with disabilities are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the School, and
- improve the delivery of information to pupils with disabilities which is readily accessible to pupils without disabilities.

HOW THE PLAN IS CONSTRUCTED

The School has a disability policy review committee which consists of:

Chief Operating Officer

Director of Estates

Deputy Head, Senior

Assistant Head Pastoral and Wellbeing
Head of Learning Support (Senior)
Head of Prep School
Head of Pre-Prep School

The committee may co-opt additional members whose expertise in any field would be of assistance. The committee's terms of reference are:

1. to review annually the School's policies, procedures and facilities as they are likely to affect pupils and prospective pupils with disabilities
2. to make recommendations with a view to improving the accessibility of its education in many aspects to pupils or prospective pupils with disabilities by means of reasonable adjustments and by planning for the future
3. to review the School's SEN and Disability Policy
4. to prepare the School's accessibility plan
5. to review such plans and policies as necessary and at least on an annual basis.

The School's disability policy review committee has been central to the drawing up the School's plan. They have considered the following when developing and reviewing the plan:

- Admissions
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Behaviour Logs
- Education
- Extra-curricular activities
- Physical school environment
- Selection and recruitment of staff
- Sporting education and activities
- Staff training
- Welfare

The School has also consulted staff with responsibility for the induction arrangements for new pupils to ensure that the particular needs of pupils with disabilities are recognised in advance, that suitable staff training is provided and that any modifications to the curriculum or premises are fed into the plan before the arrival of the new pupils.

HOW THE PLAN IS REVIEWED AND MONITORED

The School's disability committee meets annually to frame recommendations for inclusion in the plan. These recommendations include input from the senior leadership team and the document is then placed on the agenda for an appropriate sub-committee meeting of the governing body which monitors implementation of the plan including considering which measures have been achieved and where any delay in implementation is foreseen. Minutes recording the review are considered by the full Board.

The school's trustees 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 and Disability Policy.

Improving access to the physical environment

As noted above, the School is based on both sides of the Caterham Valley and so the site has steep slopes and staircases.

	Targets	Action and Resource Required	Timescale	Responsibility	Evidence of Implementation
Short term	To ensure that the School environment is accessible to all pupils	To assess the pupil roll for any individual for whom access may be problematic Plan for access where any pupil develops a disability whilst at school. This includes temporary access plans for short-term injuries, which involve rooming changes within the timetable.	Termly or as incident dictates	Director of Estates	Communication of plan where adjustments made
	Make sure furniture and equipment is selected and located appropriately.	Budget provision for specialised furniture and lighting and regular inspections of all evacuation routes	Annual budget process		Furniture purchased as required
	To ensure that lighting, colour schemes, acoustics and evacuation routes are suitable.		Inspections monthly		
Medium term	Review existing building plans to incorporate accessibility provision.	When choosing new carpets make sure it is low pile to aid wheelchair movement	Ongoing as refurbishment requires	Director of Estates	Maintenance and minor works plans
		Assess where permanent ramps may be added to existing buildings.	Ongoing as works undertaken		
		Maintenance of all lifts to access buildings	Annually		

		Nosing's on staircases to be maintained	Ongoing		
		External paths and road surfaces to be kept in good condition	Ongoing		
		Doors to buildings to be reviewed to ensure access for those in wheelchairs	Ongoing		
Long term	To improve learning context for students with disabilities	Investigate the use of and installations of portable hearing loops		SENDCo Prep SENDCo Estates Bursar	
		Conduct a survey to identify needs. Obtain estimates and conduct feasibility survey		Director of Estates	
		Consideration into upgrading the entrance and reception areas to provide access into main school	As part of Master planning	Chief Operating Officer	
		All new build to comply with current regulations as a minimum	Ongoing	Director of Estates	All building works completed include access

Improving access to the curriculum

	Targets	Action and Resource Required	Timescale	Responsibility	Evidence of Implementation
Short Term	All current and prospective registered pupils can access the curriculum regardless of disability	Information is made available via the admissions process, both from parents and current school, of any 'reasonable adjustments' that may be required for the candidate to access the curriculum. A plan is put in place for each SEND pupil on entering the school to ensure that any 'reasonable adjustments' are made to ensure access to the curriculum, whether those affect seating, lighting or adjustments to teaching. Those requirements are communicated to all staff, and reviewed and updated annually with advice from teaching staff and the pupil themselves	Immediate, and then reviewed at least annually	Deputy Head Admissions SENDCo Prep Head Prep SENDCo	Information on any disability, including SEN, or long-term medical condition, provided by parents and current school, as part of admissions process. New staff inset. Individual plans for each SEND pupil. Regular training updates. Standards of learning are equitable for these specific pupils.
		Teachers to be made aware of various teaching methods to enhance the learning experience of SEN pupils	Ongoing	Director of T&L SENDCo Prep Head Prep SENDCo	Lesson obs. and regular inset led by SENDCo
		New staff to made aware of seating and safety	New staff induction.	SENDCo Prep Head	Pupils continues to participate in School life without difficulties
	To increase staff confidence when planning differentiation and inclusion	Ensure that staff training and inset programmes support	Immediate and ongoing.	Deputy Head (Dir of Studies), SENDCo Prep Head	Raised confidence with staff.

		differentiated approach to teaching and learning		Prep SENDCo	
	To ensure that entrance examinations are conducted fairly and do not disadvantage pupils with a disability	Parents are made aware of what information is required for entrance exam access arrangements. Ensure that information on needs and requirements are obtained from parents and current school. Suitable rooming facilities and access arrangements put in place	Ongoing in time for entrance examinations Nov-Jan	Admissions, SENDCo	Candidates with SEND able to access exams and interviews fairly
	To ensure that internal assessments and GCSE and A- Level examinations are conducted fairly and do not disadvantage pupils with a disability	Pupil assessment and documentation all up to date in order to comply with JCQ regulations on access arrangements as set out in the JCQ 'Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments' publication updated in August each year. Invigilators trained annually in managing exams for pupils with access arrangements. Suitable rooming for SEND pupils taking examinations is provided. Parents and pupils aware of access arrangements and the JCQ requirements.	Ongoing; applications made in Feb each year	Deputy Head (Dir of Studies) SENDCo Exams Officer Prep Head Prep SENDCo	Successful JCQ compliance inspection. Pupils with SEND able to access all exams fairly. Pupil feedback.
	To ensure that pupils are able to take part in suitable co-curricular activities and trips irrespective of disability.	Staff aware of all SEN pupils and issues	Reviewed each term	Assistant Head (Co-curricular) SENDCo Heads of Year H.C. Staff Prep Deputy	SEN list sent to all staff as updated. Organising staff aware via ISAMs check of all SEN pupils - all staff on

				Prep SENDCo	trips made aware of any adjustments necessary, All pupils able to participate in trips and visits with little disruption
Medium Term	Undertake curriculum audits to ensure they do not inadvertently discriminate against pupils with a disability or SEN	Provide specific training for teachers on how to support pupils with a particular disability		SENDCo Prep SENDCo Director of Studies	

Improving access to information

	Targets	Action and Resource Required	Timescale	Responsibility	Evidence of Impact / Outcomes
Short Term	Ensure that information such as handouts, timetables, and information about school events can be disseminated in alternative formats such as large print, audio using ICT, or providing the information orally.		Ongoing	Deputy Head, Senior	
	To ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for applicants and visitors as part of the recruitment process	Review application forms, visiting speaker forms and consider risk assessments. Appropriate adjustments put in place.	Ongoing	Director of People	Removing barriers for visitors and applicants
Medium Term	To increase staff and pupil awareness of disability and discrimination.	To use Inset, assemblies and the Wellbeing curriculum to explore disability and discrimination.	Ongoing	Director of T&L Prep Head	Inclusion in assemblies and Wellbeing programmes. Appointment of Diversity co-ordinator. Staff training on Unconscious Bias.

	To increase staff and pupil awareness of disability and discrimination.	To use Inset, assemblies and the Wellbeing curriculum to explore disability and discrimination.	Ongoing	Director of T & L Director of People Deputy Head Prep	Inclusion in assemblies and Wellbeing programmes. Appointment of Diversity co-ordinator. Staff Training
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Last reviewed: July 2024