



# ABINGDON

HOUSE SCHOOL

## **Three-Year Accessibility Plan**

### **Abingdon House School, Purley**

**3-year period covered by the plan: 2023 to 2026**

**Responsible Person: Headteacher**

**Last Review Date: April 2023**

**Next Review Date: April 2026**

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

1. not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
2. to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
3. to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of Cavendish Education, the Proprietor/Governing Body of Abingdon House School, Purley to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- a) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;
- b) improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services;
- c) improving the delivery to pupils and parents/carers with a disability of information, which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually.

### **The School's Context**

We are an independent co-educational special school aiming to open in September 2023. On opening our students' age range will be between 10 and 13 years of age, and we will have a phased growth over 5 years, catering for students aged 7-19. The school comprises one London building over two floors.

#### The School's Aims

- a bespoke education for every pupil, developing and expanding their unique talents and helping to bring about a positive change in a pupil's self esteem

We are working within a national framework for educational inclusion provided by:

- Inclusive School (DfES 0774/2001)
- SEN & Disability Act 2014
- The SEN Revised Code of Practice 2014
- The Equality Act 2010
- ISI inspection

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by a planning group who consisted of:

- Headteacher
- Executive Headteacher
- SLT
- Governors

### **A: Educational Access**

#### **Currently in place:**

- Use of ICT-chromebooks for every student, charging in every classroom, accessibility apps and software that students are taught and supported to use themselves to improve their learning (Readwrite);
- SEN support through interventions and universal, targeted and specialist provision through the school.

#### **The main priorities in the school's accessibility plan 2023-26**

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum;

- introduce the availability of larger-print books for pupils with visual tracking and spatial awareness difficulties;
- continued use of ICT assistive technologies in collaboration with Cavendish Head of Digital Learning.

### **B: Physical Environment**

#### **Currently in place:**

- we have installed a ramp at the front of school to support access to the building
- we have developed the classroom layout in the building to ensure that all specialist teaching can take place on the ground floor and is therefore accessible to those with mobility difficulties
- therapy can occur on the ground floor if required
- we have designated a toilet as a disabled use toilet, although it is not fully wheelchair accessible

### **The main priorities in the school's accessibility plan 2023-26:**

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services:

- three small moveable ramps will be purchased to ensure that the science lab is accessible via the hall
- these ramps will also allow access to the outside space
- we will explore the possibility of creating an additional toilet and shower room (with lift and separate access) in the existing girls changing room, that is accessible by a full time wheelchair user
- in the meantime, should we need a fully accessible toilet for functions or to support any student who comes to us with mobility issues we will hire one and place it in a suitable location.
- hire firms that can be used for this purpose are;  
Gig Loo- [www.gigloo.co.uk](http://www.gigloo.co.uk)  
Surrey Loos - <https://www.surreyloos.co.uk/>  
Loos for Dos – <https://loos.co.uk/>  
Four Jays – <https://fourjays.co.uk/>  
WC Hire (portables only) - <https://www.wchire.co.uk>
- while no acoustic adjustments have been made to the building we are exploring the use of sound clouds/ dampeners should the students require these
- we have a designated 'sensory room' which will be fully kitted out within the next 3 years
- the Therapy Room will have improved provision to support for pupils experiencing sensory difficulties;
- renovations to improve the visuals around the school to support students with sensory difficulties (eg-carpets, double glazing)
- we will continue to assess and improve as required the furniture and equipment needed in classrooms in rooms to keep clutter and distraction as low as possible

### **C: Access Information**

#### **Currently in Place:**

- assistive technology including voice to text
- ability for information to be provided alongside visuals
- larger print and dyslexia friendly information

- translators available as required

**The main priorities in the school's accessibility plan 2023-26:**

Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information that is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled:

- video and audio recordings of the information