

Queenswood



Disability Policy

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DISABILITY POLICY

Policy statement

Queenswood has a legal duty, under the Equality Act 2010 to be non-discriminatory towards disabled pupils and to provide equal access to, and equal opportunities within, the curriculum.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of this policy are to:

- Support the Christian ethos of the School in respecting the rights of all pupils, whether able-bodied or disabled, to have equal access to the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and other services provided by Queenswood.
- Equally value, support and encourage all pupils of whatever ability.
- Foster positive attitudes towards disability within the Queenswood community.

Admissions

In accordance with the Admissions Policy, Queenswood will do everything possible to ensure that the full range of the School's educational curriculum, activities and facilities are made accessible to pupils with disabilities. In addition to meeting the standard educational admission criteria:

- Parents must make known the full scope of their daughter's disabilities at the time of application for admission.
- In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil, the School may take such advice and require such assessments and recommendations as it regards appropriate.
- The School must feel reasonably confident that, throughout a girl's time at Queenswood, it will be possible to educate and develop her to the best of her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by her peers. This policy applies to every potential pupil regardless of any disability.
- With prior notification of disability, supported by the recommendation of an educational psychologist's report, the School may allow some extra time in the entrance exam for prospective students with a disability.

Physical access

Under current legislation, Queenswood is not required to remove or alter existing physical features and parents and prospective parents should note that:

- The Queenswood site covers an extensive area with many old buildings of more than one storey and without lifts.
- Disabled access and appropriate facilities are being addressed for all new build projects and have been incorporated within the new Swimming Pool (2004) and the Clarissa Farr Theatre (2006).
- Fixed and portable ramps are provided to permit wheelchair access through every external door into the ground floor of the School.

When a disability or a special educational need is made known to the School, full consultation will take place with the prospective parents and any reasonable adjustments made to the admissions procedure to enable a girl, if she is able, to satisfy the admissions requirement.

The Queenswood School Accessibility Plan covers:

1. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils (including those with learning difficulties) can participate in the school's curriculum;
2. Improving the provision to disabled pupils of information which is already in writing for pupils who are not disabled;
3. Improving the physical environment of the school in order to increase the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and associated services offered by the school.

Education

- Staff will be made aware of pupils with Disability or Special Educational Needs by the Deputy Head Pastoral.
- Staff will be made aware of strategies to make "reasonable adjustments" within the classroom, so as not to place disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage in accessing the curriculum and school/public examinations and assessments.
- Staff will need to adapt their teaching to the learning patterns of all pupils according to their abilities and needs. Staff are made aware of individual needs and teaching is tailored accordingly.
- The implementation of reasonable adjustments to classroom management, teaching and expectations should not prejudice the progress of other pupils nor their health and safety.

Sporting and Recreational Activities

Queenswood will continue to provide equal access to all school activities for disabled pupils within the constraints of the site, the financial costs, the Health & Safety implications and difficulties of supervision.

Individual risk assessments and management strategies will be provided for disabled pupils participating in educational visits.

Communications

- Staff and pupils are to be made aware of disability and understand its effects and accept and support disabled pupils as part of the School family eg PSHCEE and Assemblies.
- Appropriate Staff INSET will be provided as appropriate to enhance understanding of disability, to demonstrate the need for making reasonable adjustments in compliance with legal responsibilities, and to improve the School's educational provision.
- Queenswood will agree with parents the appropriate means of regular communications with regard to the pupil's progress, behavioural issues and effects of medication.

Other related School policies and procedures#

- Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Learning Support Policy