

### **Accessibility Plan**

The Accessibility Plan presented here is an update of the original report presented in January 2004 that was reviewed in October 2010; it represents the schools current approach to The Equality Act 2010.

### **Overview**

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2001 removed the previous exemption of education from the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), ensuring that discrimination against disabled students is unlawful. Schools incurred additional responsibilities with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 superseded by the Equality Act 2010 which requires them to take measures to meet the reasonable needs of potential building users. Unlike the earlier legislation affecting employers who are required to meet the needs of disabled employees as and when a need arises (a reactive duty), educational establishments and service (shops, theatres, etc) have an anticipatory duty.

Following the implementation of SENDA, Bexley Council produced the required Statutory Accessibility Strategy. The school, in turn, produces and develops its own Accessibility Plan. This embodies the spirit of the Strategy and the 2010 Act and is specific to Westbrooke School, as it is now.

### **Aims**

The aim of the Accessibility Plan is:

- (a) to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.
- (b) To improve the physical environment of the school, to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.
- (c) To improve the delivery to disabled pupils of written information which is provided to pupils who are not disabled.
- (d) To provide equality of access to the building and use of facilities to all staff, adult users and visitors in compliance with the Equalities Act 2010.

### **Building and Facilities**

All areas of the school that pupils would need to access for curriculum tasks are fully accessible.

### **Management & Maintenance Issues**

The following management and maintenance issues are regularly reviewed.

- Keeping external routes, including steps and ramps, clean, unobstructed and free from surface water, snow and ice.
- Ensuring that the car park facilities benefit all users.
- Ensuring security arrangements do not hinder, rather assist, accessibility.
- Ensuring floors are clear of hazards such as electrical cabling
- That cleaning and polishing does not produce a slippery surface
- That storage does not obstruct circulation space and WC's.

✉ **Westbrooke School, South Gipsy Road,  
Welling, Kent. DA16 1JB**

☎ **020 8304 1320**

✉ **admin@westbrooke.bexley.sch.uk**

🌐 **www.westbrooke.bexley.sch.uk**



- Maintaining doors, door closers and ironmongery.
- Maintaining ventilation and heating equipment.
- Replacing blown bulbs, tubes and starter motors quickly.
- Keeping windows, lights and blinds clean to maximise lighting.

#### **Communication Issues**

- Providing clear signage throughout the school.
- Removing and/or changing signage when departments relocate.
- Providing accurate information on facilities prior to arrival.
- Providing and revising all literature.
- Ensuring a permanently staffed position is available for reception and to contact emergency services during working hours.
- Updating maps of buildings following changes.
- Replacing signs correctly after decoration.