



The Blue Coat School

# ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Approved by the Governors' Safeguarding, Health and Safety Committee

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(H Andrews – Chair of Safeguarding, Health and Safety Committee)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The School Accessibility Plan was devised by the Estates & Operations Manager and the Director of Learning Success in consultation with other colleagues in the school.

Date of next review: Lent 2027

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **I.1**

All schools are required to devise a three-year accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. This Plan is reviewed at least annually but also after the completion of significant works. It is presented to the Governors' Safeguarding, Health and Safety Committee for approval annually.

### **I.2**

Schedule 10 states:

- (1) The responsible body of a school in England and Wales must prepare –
  - (a) An accessibility plan;
  - (b) Further such plans at such times as may be prescribed.
  
- (2) An accessibility plan is a plan for, over a prescribed period –
  - (a) Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum,
  - (b) Improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school, and
  - (c) Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.
  
- (3) The delivery in sub-paragraph (2) above must be –
  - (a) Within a reasonable time;
  - (b) In ways which are determined after taking account of the pupils' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.
  
- (4) An accessibility plan must be in writing.
  
- (5) The responsible body must keep its accessibility plan under review during the period to which it relates and, if necessary, revise it.
  
- (6) The responsible body must implement its accessibility plan.

In addition, it states that 'In preparing an accessibility plan, the responsible body must have regard to the need to allocate adequate resources for implementing the plan.'

## **2. DEFINITION**

### **2.1**

For the purposes of the Accessibility Plan, a 'disabled pupil' refers not only to those with physical disabilities but could include, for example, those with health issues, including mental health, or learning disabilities if they meet the legal definition of 'disability'.

### **2.2.**

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as: 'A physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long term adverse impact on a person's ability to carry out normal everyday activities.'

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1**

The Blue Coat School will not treat disabled pupils less favourably and it will take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage in matters of admission and education.

#### **4. RELATED POLICIES**

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with other related whole school policies including: Policy for Special Educational Needs and Disability, Disability Discrimination Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Emergency Evacuation: Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs).

## The Blue Coat School Accessibility Plan

### I. Physical Access

Ref	Area	Provision / Action to be taken	Timescale	Reviewed 05.2.26	Cost (£)	Responsibility	Monitoring / Evaluation
1.1	Classrooms optimally organised for disabled pupils/teachers	<p>Classrooms used by disabled pupils may need extra space assigned to that pupil. Since many classrooms are large enough to comfortably hold twenty-four pupils it will be necessary to plan to locate any teacher or pupil with a physical disability requiring a wheelchair in one of the larger classrooms.</p> <p>For any child with visual difficulties, a common measure would be for the child to be seated near the front of any classroom.</p> <p>For hearing difficulties, some form of amplification system that could follow the child around the school (e.g. a portable amplifier linked to a microphone held by the teacher) would be purchased for use. This is preferable to a room-based solution as the children move to different rooms for various lessons, especially in Prep. Wi-Fi facilities are available in all classrooms in Pre-Prep and in the William Higgs, Centenary and Bissell Buildings, the Sports Centre and Year 6 Hub, as well as a few other locations.</p>	<p>As necessary</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>No wheelchairs in use currently Folding wheelchair is available in Health Centre for use by anyone in need. (e.g. following accidents) Ongoing according to need</p> <p>One child in NA does have a radio aid that connects to her hearing aids. This is provided through the Teacher of the Deaf as she is in nursery but may need to be costed once she is in Reception.</p> <p>No other child at the school with significant enough hearing loss to warrant such a measure. Wider range of Wi-Fi accessibility now available as a result of BCS Digital Learning.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>To be costed if required</p>	<p>Director of LS/ Head of Pre-Prep/Head of Prep</p> <p>Director of LS /Teaching staff</p> <p>Director of LS/Estates &amp; Operations Manager</p>	<p>All: SLT Teaching, Learning &amp; Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&amp;S Governors' Committee</p>
1.2	<p>Campus routes and car parking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obstructions, hazardous street furniture</li> <li>- Lighting provisions on site</li> <li>- Pedestrian routes</li> </ul>	<p>Site lighting upgraded to improve quality of lighting and visibility.</p> <p>Ground works plan devised to ensure development of site to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian movements around campus, including visual aids, signage, speed restrictions, clear pathways and routes around campus including from car parks. Pedestrian crossings clearly demarcated with flashing amber lights and zebra markings.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Site lighting to be monitored and upgraded as required.</p> <p>Roadways remarked and pedestrian crossings fully operational.</p>	<p>Refurbishment cost</p> <p>Refurbishment cost</p>	<p>Estates &amp; Operations Manager</p>	<p>All: SLT/ Finance &amp; Estate Governors' Committee</p>
1.3	<p>Building entrances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- entrance ramps</li> <li>- suitable hand rails provided each side</li> <li>- nosing contrasts</li> <li>- surface maintenance</li> <li>- door entry system</li> </ul>	<p>Portable ramps available – considering permanent ramps and purchase of additional portable ramps if need identified.</p> <p>Handrails to be installed if a need is identified or if there are several steps or a long ramp presenting a hazard without handrails.</p> <p>Contrasts to be maintained through painting programme.</p> <p>Maintain surfaces free of mould growth by pressure washing as required.</p> <p>Ensure door locking devices are at correct height. For other doors, locks will be lowered, if necessary, when new doors are fitted.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Portable ramps available. Additional ramps will be purchased as required</p> <p>No hand rail areas identified but kept under review for refurbishments</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To be costed if required</p> <p>To be costed if required</p> <p>To be costed if required</p> <p>In house</p> <p>In house To be costed if required</p>	<p>Estates &amp; Operations Manager</p>	<p>All: SLT/ Finance &amp; Estate Governors' Committee</p>

1.4	Internal Steps - Tactile warnings - Hand railing	Investigate possibility of tactile warnings at heads of stairs.  Provide handrails to either side of stepped approaches.	As necessary  As necessary	None required currently  None required currently	To be costed if required  To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.5	Corridors	Monitor lighting levels and provide suitable diffusers  Provide extra handrails when required.	Ongoing  As necessary	Ongoing as required  None required currently	Included in budget  To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.6	Internal Doors - Vision panels - Door closer pressures - Door widths - Door furniture - Security keypads	Ensure vision panels are not obstructed. Vision panels added to doors as required  Estate staff to ease and adjust door closers as required. Widen doors during refurbishments where possible.  Replace door knobs with lever handles during refurbishments.  Ensure keypads are installed at suitable heights.	Termly checks As necessary  Termly checks As necessary  As necessary  As necessary	Ongoing Ongoing  Ongoing Ongoing  Ongoing	N/A To be costed if required In house To be costed if required To be costed if required To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.7	Toilet Facilities - Signage - Accessibility - Colour contrast - Locks - Heights and sizes - Grab rails - Slip resistant surfaces - Water temps - Taps	Maintain signage. Install additional facilities for wheelchair users where refurbishments include toilet facilities. Provide panic switch gear to required washrooms. Use suitable tonal contrasts between doors and walls. Ensure locks are at appropriate heights. Ensure towel holders and hand-driers are at an appropriate height. Fit grab rails where need arises for specific individuals. To provide slip resistant surfaces during refurbishments.  Installation of TMVs to control water temps within pupil areas.  Lever taps to be fitted to disabled toilets.	As necessary As necessary  Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing As necessary Ongoing  Ongoing	Ongoing Disabled facilities in building design with lever taps Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing  Completed – including temperature checking Lever taps fitted as required	In house To be costed if required In house In house In house In house To be costed if required  To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.8	Classrooms - Seating - Desks - Windows	Age appropriate furniture provided. Provide range of seat heights (Available by redistributing furniture as necessary).  Provide range of desk heights (Available by redistributing furniture as necessary).  Ensure blinds are operating and compliant with current regulations.	As necessary  As necessary  Ongoing	Ongoing  Ongoing  Blinds regularly maintained and blind restrictors fitted	To be costed if required  To be costed if required To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.9	Kitchen areas - Taps	Provide lever taps as required.	Ongoing	To be fitted as required	To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.10	Acoustics - Environment	Acoustics to be considered in any refurbishment, acoustic panels to be installed should it be required.	As necessary	Acoustic panels to be considered as required	To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee
1.11	Swimming access	Ensure that all children can use facilities, staff training to be provided and a hoist installed for use in the swimming pool if a need for this is identified.	As necessary	Ongoing consideration – not required at present.	To be costed if required	Estates & Operations Manager	All: SLT/ Finance & Estate Governors' Committee/Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee

1.12	Fire and Emergency	Fire safe areas have been identified and are reviewed as part of the Fire Risk Assessment and as and when required as per PEEP policy any pupil or member of staff with a long- or short-term disablement. When required it may be considered an option to move the lesson to ground floor, however this would be done without compromise to the pupil's education or participation with the class.	As required	Ongoing	Any alterations to be costed as required.	Estates & Operations Manager/Head of Pre-Prep/Head of Prep	All: SLT/Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
	PEEP policy	Fire evacuation bells provide warnings for those with visual and hearing impairments (flashing lights are integral to the alarm system).  A policy has been created and will be reviewed annually to ensure the safe emergency evacuation of all building users - this can be for anyone with any form of disability or concern.	Weekly alarm check	Ongoing	N/A	Estates & Operations Manager	
	Fire Risk Assessment	Fire Risk Assessment is performed / reviewed annually to ensure buildings have adequate protection. This includes disabled routes and provisions for all occupiers.	Reviewed annually	Ongoing annual reviews	To be costed if additional routes or provisions are required	Estates & Operations Manager	

## 2. Access to the Curriculum

Ref	Area	Provision / Action to be taken	Timescale	Reviewed 05.02.26	Cost (£)	Responsibility	Monitoring / Evaluation
2.1	Differentiation of the curriculum	SENCOs liaise with teachers and outside agencies to ensure that the needs of any child with special requirements can be accommodated and provide a mechanism for feedback from teachers and parents to ensure that issues can be dealt with as they arise.	As required	Ongoing	SENCO time built into budgets	Academic Lead/Director of Learning Success	All: SLT Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
		SENCO actively briefs teachers on the special needs of pupils via email and attendance at key meetings. Adaptation of provision then follows if possible and appropriate.	Weekly	Ongoing	SENCO time built into budgets	Academic Lead/Director of Learning Success	
		For disabilities such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD and other forms of learning difficulties, the school SENCOs liaise with Educational Psychologists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists as necessary to ensure that these disabilities are identified and relevant assistance provided. Interventions are implemented for children as appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing	SENCO time built into budgets	Academic Lead/Director of Learning Success	
2.2	School visits	Where a child has a disability, every attempt will be made to include them in whatever activity is being planned. One of the School minibuses can be modified to take a wheelchair, although this has not been required since the minibus was acquired. Additional staff can also be allocated to a school trip. Risk Assessments reviewed by the EVC and the SLT for all school visits.	As required	Action has been taken when required.	Minibus purchased for school usage with wheelchair access and additional requirements costed as necessary.	Estates & Operations Manager/Director of Learning Success/EVC	All: SLT Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee

2.3	Computer Access	Where needed, consideration will be given to the provision of iPads for individual pupils.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Additional requirements costed as necessary.	Estates & Operations Manager/Academic Lead/Director of Learning Success/Director of ICT and Digital Innovation	All: SLT Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
2.4	Large Format Displays	Install height adjustable boards where appropriate. Teachers can alter the seating provision in the classroom as necessary. Background colour of the LFD can be adjusted as required. BCS Digital Learning ensures that individual children can have any necessary adjustments on their own screen.	Ongoing	Ongoing as required	Part of ICT budget	Estates & Operations Manager/Academic Lead/Director of Learning Success/Director of ICT and Digital Innovation	All: SLT Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
2.5	Hearing Impairment Adjustment	<p>Carpeted rooms to be used where possible. Children to be seated away from any windows with potential road noise where possible. To be seated away from any fans. Teachers to face child when talking. Monitor acoustics in noisy environments such as the Dining Hall.</p> <p>Training to be provided for all staff teaching a child with a hearing impairment by the Hearing Impaired Service</p> <p>Hearing Aid batteries will be kept by the Class Teacher/Form Tutor for pupils to access if spares are required</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>Ongoing as required</p> <p>As and when required</p> <p>As and when required</p>	<p>No specific cost</p> <p>No specific cost</p> <p>No specific cost</p>	<p>Director of Learning Success/SENCO</p> <p>Director of Learning Success/SENCO</p> <p>Director of Learning Success/SENCO</p>	All: SLT Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
2.6	Medical Conditions	<p>Care Plans are created to cope with a range of medical issues including diabetes. Staff have regular training on asthma, allergy awareness and the use of Epipens or similar devices.</p> <p>Staff have training on the management of epilepsy as necessary.</p> <p>Medical alert cards are on display in key locations for children with special dietary requirements and there is close collaboration between the School Matron and Catering Manager. Children in Pre-Prep are supervised by staff from these parts of the school at mealtimes to ensure that dietary requirements are met.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Training costs</p> <p>Training costs</p> <p>No specific cost</p>	<p>School Matron</p> <p>School Matron</p> <p>School Matron/Catering Manager</p>	All: SLT Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee
2.7	Physical adaptation	Periodic training will be arranged for staff to enable them to learn how they may assist in reducing the impact of various disabilities.	Ongoing as required	Ongoing as required	Training costs	Director of Learning/SENCO/School Matron	All: SLT Safeguarding, H&S Governors' Committee

### 3. Access to Information

Ref	Area	Provision / Action to be taken	Timescale	Reviewed 05.02.26	Cost (£)	Responsibility	Monitoring / Evaluation
3.1	Alternative Formats	<p>Consideration is given to adopting good print guidelines. (e.g. font size, type, colour, etc.) With the implementation of 1:1 iPads, accessibility functions can be used for specific learning needs.</p> <p>Provide alternative forms, such as braille and audio - this would only be done if it became a requirement.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>As necessary</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>As required</p>	Training costs	<p>Director of Learning Success/SENCO</p> <p>Director of Learning Success/SENCO</p>	<p>All: SLT Teaching, Learning &amp; Curriculum Governors' Committee, Safeguarding, H&amp;S Governors' Committee</p>