



**SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Accessibility Policy

Senior Leader Review Lead: Deputy Head teacher and SEND Co

Last Reviewed: Spring 2026

Review date: Spring 2029



*Inspire
Empower
Shape The Future*

1. Purpose

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access to all students, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to continued positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

2. Statutory and Regulatory Context

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on their ability to undertake normal day-to-day activities.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments, such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a pupil with disabilities faces in comparison with a pupil without disabilities. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

3. Aims

This plan sets out the proposals of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School to maintain and increase access to education for disabled students in the areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010:

1. increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum.
2. improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services.
3. improving the availability of accessible information to pupils with disabilities.



4. Improving knowledge and understanding among other staff and pupils.

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School also recognises its responsibilities towards disabled staff and parents/carers and will:

- monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that people with disabilities are given equal opportunities
- ensure that staff with disabilities are supported with special provision to ensure that they may carry out their work effectively without barriers and where necessary, undertake reasonable adjustment to enable staff to fully access the workplace
- ensure that disabled parents/carers are supported and can access school information and events readily.

Our school aims to treat all its pupils and their families fairly and with respect. This includes supporting the needs of families of young carers, by making sure the school is accessible and welcoming to parents/carers with disabilities and/or illness, and removing any barriers to communication.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan.

Our school's complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, the complaints procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

Strategy:

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School aims over time to increase the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors including those with disabilities. Our strategies include:

- Having high expectations of all our students.
- Finding ways in which all students can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music and extracurricular activities.



- Planning out of school activities including school trips so that students with disabilities can participate.
- Setting admission criteria which do not discriminate against students with disabilities or treat them unfairly.
- Devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for students with disabilities.
- Planning the improvement and the modification of the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of students with disabilities.
- Raising awareness of disability amongst all school staff providing written information/ electronic communication for students with disabilities in a form which is user friendly.
- Using language which does not offend in all literature and making staff and students aware of the importance of language.
- Creating an inclusive school community for all students and staff through our teaching of the school values.

Planning Duty 1: Increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum.

At the present time all students access every aspect of this curriculum, whatever their disabilities. In order to improve access, over the past few years we have worked in collaboration with the Local Authority in order to improve access for those with mobility difficulties, through the installation of disability lifts in key areas of the school; installation of ramps and the removal of physical barriers. In 2009 the school undertook an audit of the site in order to prepare access for a pupil with mobility difficulties. This audit was undertaken in collaboration with the prospective pupil, her mother, her current support staff from her primary school, the specialist teaching services and the school's own SEN staff. All identified issues were addressed as part of preparations for her entry into the school.

In 2020, the school welcomed a student with visual impairment. In readiness, the SENDco worked with the site team, student, his parents and teaching assistant to identify adaptations necessary to ensure the full curriculum and extra curricular opportunities could be accessed. This continues as the student moves into new year groups and building works take place on the school site, eg the new sports venue.

Every year as part of the Year 8 PSHE programme, students and staff conduct a Disability Access Assessment of the School's buildings and facilities. We often have intermittent wheelchair users and there are also several students with hearing impairments. All of these students fully access the curriculum and extracurricular activities, as desired. Key areas for future improvements include:

On -going Strategy:



Continually auditing adjustments being made to the curriculum to accommodate disabled students e.g. timetabling and in-class support.

Provide training for all staff on differentiation of the curriculum:

Provide INSET to all staff from specialist teachers to ensure all students they teach are able to access the lesson content.

Ensure equal access for disabled students to school clubs, school visits and extra-curricular activities.

Ensure new infrastructure developments support the needs of disabled students.

Risk assessments and planning of trips to include accessibility references.

Planning Duty 2: Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services.

The school has made a committed effort to improve the physical environment for disability access with lifts installed across the school. In 2017, a new classroom block was opened attached to the old Hall Block, providing a large, ground floor accessible catering area and lifts up to the upper floors of H Block.

In 2021 the school opened its new Sports Campus including Netball Courts, Astroturf, Football Training Field and a Sports Hall including a Fitness Suite. The campus was designed to enable students with disabilities to access all areas after consulting with Sports Able and Horizon Sports.. This includes ramped paths to the outdoor facilities and wide gates; a wider sports hall allowing run-offs for wheelchair sport and accessible toilets. The Sports Hall is a single-storey building.

In the summer of 2021 the school completed further improvements to the school's infrastructure, converting parts of the H Block building on the ground and first floor and improving other areas of the school; these improvements all recognise the needs of disabled students. The new development includes:

- A new ground floor, gender -neutral toilet block including accessible toilets and all toilets with wider than standard doors and cubicles.
- A new ground floor classroom.
- A new first floor classroom accessible by lift.
- Ground floor language assistant rooms.
- Ground floor Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 offices with learning support spaces attached.
- Movement of the School Counselling Room to create a more focused Student Support Area
- The Rowing Weights Room moved to the ground floor.
- Peripatetic Music Rooms and Recital Room accessible by lift.



- Additional ground floor assembly and lecture space.

Several areas of the school are still identified as presenting potential access problems, all of which will require collaboration with the Local Authority as part of their ongoing improvements to school sites. Priority areas include:

a. The Chapel.

b. The Dance Studio (there is Lift Access via the LRC but two small steps to negotiate up to the studio.) The school has a three year plan to move the Dance Studio; in the meantime we can timetable a Dance Class in the accessible theatre if this was needed.

In addition the school has identified a key area for improvement to be the removal of “trip hazards” around the school site, mostly relating to lack of bag storage in corridors and other public areas. This being addressed as follows:

New bag racks were constructed in 2017 which have partially addressed this.

In Summer 2021, the school has invested in new banks of lockers for Key Stage 3 students and is implementing a new policy on locker usage to reduce bags around the school. The school has invested in new lockers for the Sports Hall to store bags of students when in games lessons.

The school plans a review of whether to install further lockers and expand the new locker policy to other Key Stages during 2021/2.

The school recognises that storage issues in and around the Theatre at times of shows and performances need addressing to ensure clear access at all times. In 2020 the school allocated an additional space for theatre storage that was previously an unused changing space. In the summer of 2021, with the completion of additional changing in the Sports Hall, storage space has been created in a second small changing space next to the theatre foyer. The creation of the Music Recital room allows the Music Room nextdoor to the theatre to be used for storage during productions and performances. We will continue to monitor this.

The school also highlights steps / slopes / stairs with yellow stripes to highlight potential hazards

Planning Duty 3: The duty to improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils.

The school currently fully complies with this duty. We share information and curriculum resources via our google based system, making all learning resources and information available to students and parents electronically as needed. We are able to provide audio feedback on the curriculum online as needed.

Offer additional support to meet the needs of young carers and their families



Planning Duty 4: Improving knowledge and understanding among other staff and pupils.

The school is committed to ensuring this is delivered annually to Year 8 students as a key module of their PSHE programme. They have a collapsed day off timetable, of workshops and across the module undertake an assessment of the site. They are also working with Holyport Special School to raise understanding and awareness. This was done as a virtual event in 2020. There is a range of presentations in assemblies for staff and students from Charity groups improving knowledge and understanding; the school supports a range of charities which are chosen by the student body and cover both local and national foci.

Evaluation of the plan:

The following “success” measures have been considered:

- Satisfaction of disabled pupils and their parents:
- Students fully access the curriculum, including Dance and PE.
- Evidence of involvement of disabled pupils in the full life of the school:
- Those with relatively minor hearing impairment also gain full access to school life. For example, full participation by pupils with hearing impairments, in the school’s music and dance programmes. Students with minor and significant visual impairment access the full curriculum and play sports and take part in performing arts. Where students have needed temporary wheelchair access we have enabled them to access the curriculum and their activities as needed.

Staff confidence in teaching and supporting disabled pupils:

5. Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy
- Health and safety policy
- [Special educational needs \(SEN\) information report](#)
- [SEND policy](#)

