



Bearwood College
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SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY ACT POLICY

Bearwood College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, pupils and visitors to share this commitment.

All outcomes generated by this document must take account of and contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people at Bearwood College.

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Authorised by the Headmaster on behalf of the Governors, following Resolution by the Board in January 2012

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY ACT (SENDA) POLICY

April 2009 THREE YEAR PLAN

Bearwood College acknowledges that it is subject to the SENDA Act and its policy clearly shows its duty towards pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the wider community who have a disability. Where pupils or prospective pupils are concerned Bearwood College acknowledges its non-discrimination and planning duty under the Special Education Needs and Disability Act 2001.

- Admission to Bearwood College is non-discriminatory, in accordance with our policies.
- Bearwood College will take all responsible steps to avoid putting disabled pupils or staff at any substantial disadvantage to others in all matters relating to school life.
- Extra-curricular activities are a central part of Bearwood College's philosophy and any mobility issue will be assessed on an individual basis
- The College asks parents to complete the Registration Form and to disclose whether their child has a disability, special educational need or medical condition. The parents will then receive a disability form in respect of a prospective pupils requesting further detailed information about their child.
- In assessing any pupil or prospective pupil the College may take such advice and require such assessment as it deems appropriate. Subject to this, the College will be sensitive to any issues of confidentiality.
- Where it is practicable to make reasonable adjustments based upon the information given and advice received, to enable a prospective pupil to take up a place at Bearwood College and provided the pupil satisfies the admissions criteria, the College is committed to providing those reasonable adjustments.

1. BACKGROUND

THE COLLEGE'S LAYOUT AND FACILITIES:

- The College is situated in a number of buildings across a wide campus, many old and not purpose-built, and often subject to Listed Building constraints. Wheelchair access is not possible other than on the ground floor of any building.
- The Games fields have effective wheel chair access in suitable weather conditions. Access to the woodland areas and the lake is likewise possible but dependent on day to day environmental conditions.

Bearwood College is not required to provide auxiliary aids and services or to make physical changes to their existing buildings. A pupil with restricted mobility is likely to be put at a disadvantage by these problems. A pupil with severely restricted mobility may be unable to access some of the education and recreational facilities that the College offers.

Wherever practical, in line with the Disability Policy the College will make reasonable adjustments to the timetable to allow children with restricted mobility to attend accessible parts of the site.

2. ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

The College will review this plan periodically and will monitor and evaluate:

- the effectiveness of action taken
- relevant targets
- responses to any further legislative changes

3. INCREASING THE EXTENT TO WHICH DISABLED PUPILS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CURRICULUM

As budgets allow and as far as is practicable:

- i. The College maintains a unified policy throughout all its sections, to ensure:
 - a. That all pupils who are disabled, including those with learning difficulties can participate in the whole school curriculum.
 - b. Pupil documents can be printed in large print on request.
 - c. There is full disclosure of relevant information between all schools at pupil transfer.
 - d. Staff monitoring Study Support share best practice.
- ii. Where physical access to the site is difficult for a prospective pupil, the College recognises the need to be proactive in enabling such access. Accordingly pupils with relevant disabilities will, where practicable, be:
 - a. placed in ground floor classrooms and similar locations that are most convenient for physical access
 - b. given priority in the writing of the timetable with regard to accessible rooms and set allocations

4. IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE COLLEGE

As budgets allow and as far as is practicable:

- i. The College will establish areas where improvements can be made and a prioritised list will be drawn up (see below).
- ii. The College will annually undertake a fire safety risk assessment and update the school's fire evacuation plan.
- iii. The School will aim to make newly constructed buildings fully accessible to disabled pupils.
- iv. All conversions to existing areas of the College above will be considered with regard to disabled access and every reasonable effort made to improve access within the scope of the work.
- v. Every reasonable effort will be made to purchase equipment that meets the needs of any disabled pupil.

5. IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF INFORMATION TO DISABLED PUPILS

As budgets allow and as far as is practicable:

- i. The College will arrange for documents to be provided to prospective parents who have a disability, in forms that meet the need, if so requested and it is reasonable to do so.
- ii. College documents will be available in large print format on request.
- iii. The College will continue to provide INSET for all teachers in order to support them in better communication with pupils with SEN or disabilities.

6. ACCESSIBILITY

Plans to improve the physical environment of the school.

PLANS FOR 2009/2012

2010-11

- 1. Car park markings in main car park*
- 2. Disabled toilet provided in Senior School*
- 3. Improve ramp access to theatre*
- 4. High vis markings on steps to Red Corridor*
- 5. Increased CCTV installation at Senior School*

2011-12

Mansion

- 1. The metal shoe grate should be removed for public events and replaced with a 60mm ramp*
- 2. Access into the main building and possibly out to south terrace is required. A stair lift machine is the best option.*
- 3. The edges of all steps should be easily identifiable, ideally with nosing tape*
- 4. A wheel chair user would not be able to get to the reception - an intercom should be considered for the reception so as a disabled person can ask for assistance – also reception has no induction loop for the hard of hearing.*
- 5. Signs stating that the vending machines are for scholars only are required*

Chapel

- 1. The chapel double doors must be used for public events as the single door is not wide enough*
- 2. Coir mats are present in the main entrance and the chapel - assistance for wheelchair users could be required.*

Theatre

1. *The theatre disabled toilet requires a total refurbishment to comply with current regulations - Siemens to fit a visual alarm in the toilet*

RELEVANT TARGETS

Consideration will be made for disabled access to any new refurbishments that are planned at the school for the present and future.

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