



# NONSUCH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

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Reviewed and Agreed by the Nonsuch Local Governing Body: Summer 2021

Next Review: Summer 2024

Policy Notes may be subject to review and revision at any time by the Nonsuch Local Governing Body notwithstanding that the next review date has not been reached.

Review dates are for guidance only and whilst the intention is always to arrange reviews within the stated time frame all Policy Notes will remain in force until this has taken place and been formally approved by the Nonsuch Local Governing Body.

## **1. Purpose**

This document accords with Statute and sets out the plan adopted by the Local Governing Body of Nonsuch High School for Girls (the 'School') to deal with accessibility within the site for all persons with disabilities of any sort. It provides a framework on which the school will base its arrangements for Accessibility Plans that are compliant with current legislation below:

- The Equality Act 2010

## **2. General Policy**

The aim of this plan is to set out the ways in which the School works to ensure equality of access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all students, irrespective of their special needs or disability. It focuses on measures already taken to make the school building accessible to all; to ensure that all students can access the curriculum; and it examines the future priorities.

## **3. Making the school building accessible**

With an increasing roll, the School has undertaken several building projects and has ensured that all of these enhance the accessibility for all to the school's facilities. Measures taken include ramps into and within the building for wheelchair users; lifts around the school building to access the first and second floors and the main hall and all floors in the new building; a stair lift from the first floor up to the music department and ramp access to the side of the main school hall, to the canteen, the school gym and the Drama block.

There remain, however, several areas which require improvement.

- Access to the first floor of the drama block where there are 3 classrooms
- The astronomy dome on the school roof can be accessed via a lift, which will require a key to take an individual to the roof.
- Easy access to the History corridor. Individuals are required to take a specific route to access the 4 classrooms in the History corridor

Routes available to those with mobility issues are less straight-forward than they are for fully mobile people, with the school having been built on several levels.

## **4. Increasing Access to the Curriculum**

The Accessibility Plan seeks to increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability by:

- 4.1. Expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are equally prepared for life as are able-bodied pupils. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe.

- 4.2. Improving the delivery of written and electronic information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information is made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4.3. Ensuring that any student with mobility issues is timetabled in rooms which are readily accessible (ideally on the ground floor of the building) and that measures are taken to ensure that all students are guaranteed full participation in the school's curriculum.

## **5. Review and Future Priorities**

- 5.1. The intake of the School is reviewed each year for any accessibility restrictions of new pupils. Accessibility arrangements are made in accordance with any new requirement. Currently (June 2021) there is one pupil requiring special mobility impairment accessibility arrangements to any part of the School and no staff. In the event that a member of staff has a mobility impairment, they would be given a parking space close to the school building.
- 5.2. All new building work is assessed for inclusion of future-proofed accessibility requirements and such needs are accommodated where practical within legacy buildings for refurbishment work.
- 5.3. Development training for staff will recognise the need to continue raising awareness on equality issues with reference to the Acts, and these will be considered as and when relevant School policies are reviewed.