



*A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.*

## The SJWMS Accessibility Plan

**Date written: August 2024**

**Date of next review: August 2026**

### **Introduction**

The Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School is committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness throughout the school.

The School has on roll pupils with physical disability, hearing/sight impairment and learning impairment. It is recognised by the Local Authority and neighbouring LEAs as being well placed to support these pupils.

The school recognises its duty in complying with all disability and equal opportunities legislation:

- not to discriminate against disabled students in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and extra-curricular activities
- not to treat disabled students less favourably
- to take all reasonable steps to avoid putting students with disabilities at a substantial disadvantage
- to publish an Accessibility Plan

Since April 2011, schools have also been bound by a part of the Equality Act 2010 called the Public Sector Equality Duty (also known as the PSED, or simply the "Equality Duty").

The Equality Duty replaces the previous three sets of duties on schools to promote disability, gender and race equality through having equality policies and action plans for these groups.

The School Accessibility Plan contains relevant actions that meet the requirements of the Equality Act to:

- Increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability, modifying the **curriculum** as necessary to ensure that students with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied students.

- Improve and maintain access to the **physical environment** of the school, adding more specialist facilities as necessary – the school takes into account the needs of students, parents and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements.
- Improve where necessary the delivery of **written information** to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities.

### **ACCESS FOR DISABLED PUPILS TO THE CURRICULUM**

- There are no barriers for access to the whole curriculum for disabled, sensorily and visually impaired pupils.
- Extensive information is shared with all teaching staff as to how best to include all disabled, sensorily and visually impaired pupils in the classroom environment.
- In Physical Education individual programmes are designed according to the needs of the student. Specialist equipment is available to allow access to the swimming pool and LSAs are on hand to assist in accessing the curriculum, again using specialist equipment when it is required.
- Hearing impaired and visually impaired pupils are seated in classrooms in accordance with medical advice.
- All trips/visits are adapted in response to pupil circumstances.
- Pupils with other forms of disability e.g. dyslexia or dyspraxia are supported by the Learning Support Service and LSAs who have volunteered for additional training.
- The school is committed to putting in place appropriate provision to match the learning needs of all pupils with SEN status to enable them to access all levels of the curriculum.
- Any necessary support and provision identified at transition phase is implemented as soon as pupils with SEN join the school in Year 7.
- This provision is reviewed at least three times a year at the APDR and ISR meetings and adapted where appropriate.
- All the needs of pupils with SEN status and subsequent appropriate provision are communicated to staff on the SEN register; changes to the SEN register are communicated immediately.
- All trips/visits are adapted in response to pupil circumstances.
- Activities and school trips are available to all pupils.
- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate.
- The needs of all pupils with SEN status are discussed with the SENCO or Deputy SENCO prior to a trip or activity taking place.
- Where appropriate 1:1 support is put in place to enable a pupil with SEN status to take part in a trip.

## **ACCESS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- Reasonable adjustments are made in the application of policies to ensure disabled students, parents and visitors to the school are not treated unfavourably.
- All classrooms and specialist teaching areas are accessible to all pupils.
- Toilet provision throughout the school is adequate.
- A physiotherapy area of the SEN room is available for use by physically disabled pupils and other disabled pupils as appropriate.
- Safe routes via ramps exist on the site.
- Safe storage facilities for wheelchairs and specialist equipment are available.
- A number of doors have been adapted to ease access.
- Emergency evacuation routes have been identified and procedures implemented.
- Main doors to buildings have automatic electronic access.
- The reception area has been adapted to accommodate the needs of disabled visitors to the school.
- Disabled pupils are issued with additional electronic equipment as required to encourage independence and allow them to fully access the curriculum. The school takes advice from and has a positive working relationship with the Physical Advisory Teacher for The Medway Council & Children's Therapy Team who audits the school site on an annual basis. Where improvements can be made to aid the physical navigation around the site of the school for disabled pupils the school will endeavour to meet this recommendation.
- Disabled pupils in the school who have an Education Health and Care Plan have their individual physical needs formally assessed on an annual basis at the EHCP review.
- The SEN team have very positive relationships with the parents and carers of the disabled pupils in the school setting; parents and carers of these pupils can contact the SEN team directly by email or telephone.

## **WRITTEN INFORMATION**

The Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School is committed to improving the delivery of information which is provided in writing to students, parents and visitors to the school.

- The SEN Department are able to provide overlays & coloured paper for students who have been diagnosed with Irlen Syndrome or dyslexia.
- Dyslexic pupils will be offered 1:1 support if required & appropriate support strategies will be put in place to enable them to access all written information both in class and in examination situations
- Students who have difficulties in presenting work that is legible are supported

to improve their handwriting by the SEN Department.

- Students who require the use of a laptop for writing heavy subjects will be able to use IT in their Public Examinations as an Access Arrangement if this becomes their 'normal way of working'
- Information is shared with parents (where appropriate) in both paper and electronic format.

***Please note that information included in this Accessibility Plan is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the school's control.***

***We will endeavour to update any changes in an appropriate time frame.***