




# Accessibility Plan

## Policy Review

Review Cycle:	Date of Current Policy:	Author(s) of Current Policy:	Review Date
3 Year	February 2023	William Owsley	February 2026

## Policy Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
School Business Manager	Erica Pagan		8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

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## 1 Aims

This Accessibility Plan has been based on information provided by the Local Authority and gathered from students, parents, staff and governors of the College. It will advise other College planning documents.

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all students, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

Frome College plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improve access to the **physical environment** of the College, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment and physical aids to access education.
- Increase access to the **curriculum** for students with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the non-disabled pupils. This covers learning and teaching 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 **aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve the delivery of **written information** to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the College and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.
- Attached are Action Plans, relating to these 3 key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed annually. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.
- Whole College training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Public Sector Equality Policy
- Appraisal Policy
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- SEND Policy
- Behaviour Policy and Procedures
- School Improvement Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- School Prospectus
- Teaching and Learning Policy

The Action Plan for physical accessibility will in future relate to the Access Audit of the College. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this first Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited every 3 years.

As College policies are reviewed, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality, Diversity and Access as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The College Prospectus will refer to this Accessibility Plan.

The College's complaints procedure will cover the Accessibility Plan.

The Plan will be monitored through the Business Committee.

The College will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this plan.

## 2 Improving the Physical Access at Frome College

We regularly do access audits as required for our students with special educational needs including those at transition. We aim to comply with all regulations by the time the student arrives in September.

### Items completed since March 2019 Accessibility Plan

Items	Activity	Date of completion
Heating – E Block	Heating system inefficient - new boiler system installed	Summer 2019
Heating – H Block	Heating system inefficient - new boiler system installed	Summer 2019
Speed bumps	Speed bumps altered round site to enable wheelchair access to the side of them	Autumn 2019
Access to Sports Centre	Kerbs dropped in certain areas and pathway laid to enable access to sports centre	Summer 2019
Hoists and evacuation chair	Staff trained in the correct procedure	Summer 2021
Toilets – E Block	Refurbishment of toilets created individual unisex cubicles	December 2022
Toilets – H Block	Refurbishment of toilets created individual unisex cubicles	December 2022
Provide outside eating and social area for SEND students	Surface laid to provide bespoke area for Learning Hub students	January 2023
Create sensory room	Safe area created for dysregulated students as part of SEND requirements.	January 2023

### 3 Items pending in updated Accessibility Plan 2023

Items pending	Activity	Timescale
Edge of steps – not all steps stand out	Paint contrasting colour to edge of steps	Ongoing
Uneven paving - this presents a trip hazard and difficulties for wheelchair users	Ongoing project to remove uneven areas in pathways, mainly cause by the large amount of trees around the site	Easter 2023
Contrasting doorways - Some doorways do not contrast with their surroundings	Ensure all doorways contrast	Ongoing
Flooring – some old flooring produces a lot of glare and is not sound absorbent	Review flooring especially in Science. Fit carpet or acoustic flooring that reduces noise levels – Partially done	Ongoing
Fire Exit – ramped area and new fire exit door required	Learning Hub – fire exit to have new door and ramped area	February 2023
Noise reduction in Learning Hub	Acoustic sound insulation applied to partition walls in Learning Hub	February 2023

## 4 Improving the Curriculum Access at Frome College

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation	The college works hard to ensure all students have access to all activities. Carry out survey to ensure compliance	Ongoing	All pupils have access to all activities
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues	Provide training for governors, staff, students and parents  Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school	Whole College community aware of issues relating to Access	Ongoing	Society will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment

## 5 Improving the Delivery of Written Information at Frome College

Target	Strategy	Outcome	Timeframe	Achievement
Make available College brochures, newsletters and other information for parents in a number of alternative formats as requested.	Review all current College publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it	All College information contains a statement that we can provide alternative formats. College information available in a number of other formats on request.	Ongoing	Delivery of College information to parents and the local community improved
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment.	Get advice from LA on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customized materials	A version of all College information available in Braille on request	Ongoing	Delivery of College information to students & parents with visual difficulties improved



## 6 Access Plan

### Rooms:

- Accessible through doorways
- Arrangement of furniture to allow free wheelchair movement

### Furniture:

- Height of desks to be appropriate to accommodate wheelchair users comfortably
- At least one classroom within the Physics, Chemistry and Biology departments to have adjustable height work benches with gas taps

### Steps/Stairs:

- Contrast colour on edge of step/stairs
- Where necessary emergency evacuation equipment fitted to stairs

### Written:

- The ability to produce information in Braille

### Hearing impaired:

- Acoustic sound checks of classrooms including indoor PE areas and large social areas

### Training Staff:

- In the correct manual handling of disabled people
- The use of hoists and the evacuation chair: to ensure more teaching and support staff are trained in this procedure

### Area for Student Personal Care:

- The use of which is restricted to trained staff which includes a storage area for disabled persons' equipment

Disabled parents / visitors to college and parents' evening:

- Identify in advance disabled visitors to ensure routes to destinations are accessible; of particular importance the theatre
- Offer appropriate accommodation where necessary to visiting associates
- Make it aware to staff members that they may be asked to relocate to meet disabled visitors
- Advertise the importance of parent return forms for those in need of wheelchair access or who have mobility issues prior to arrival at the college

Student awareness:

- Ensuring all students understand the difficulties faced by disabled students to create a more welcoming environment

Transport:

- College to ensure funding for specialist wheelchair access to public and privately owned vehicles on educational visits.