



DOWDALES SCHOOL

Accessibility Policy

Issue No.	Author/Owner	Date of Issue	Reviewed	To be reviewed	Approved by Governors on
001	DYo	Sept 2009		Sept 2010	Dec 2009

The Act states that it is unlawful for a Service Provider to discriminate against a person with disabilities. This Act is being phased through stages. Part II sets out the requirements for employers and disabled employees. Part III sets out how Service Providers must cater for those with disabilities.

Service Providers provide goods or facilities and to a small number of exclusions, affects every Service Provider in the UK, whether in the private or public sectors. This includes local and national government public services, charities and voluntary groups, hotels and caterers, professionals (accountants, solicitors, doctors, churches etc) shops, places of entertainment, hairdressers and beauty parlours, markets, petrol stations, supermarkets, places of education, and every other type of business with very few exceptions. The Act covers all those providing the service from the director or manager to the most junior assistant. Exceptions include private clubs where membership is a requirement and the public are not admitted. Manufacturers and designers of products unless the public is admitted to their premises eg craft shops and factory shops. The Service Provider must not treat the disabled person less favourably without justifiable reason. It is unlawful to discriminate against a disabled person by refusing to provide a service normally provided to the able-bodied. It is also unlawful to provide a service to a lower standard, or in a worse manner or on worse terms of cost. It is unlawful to fail to make reasonable adjustments. This means that all Service Providers must ensure that access into and around their premises is adapted to suit the needs of the disabled. This may include the provision of ramps, rails, signage, lighting, hearing devices, counter heights, stairs and lifts, alarms, doors, surface textures and colours.

Complying with Part III of the DDA is the responsibility of the Service Provider, not necessarily the owner of the building. Owners of buildings have no legal duty to make adjustments to premises that are let out or managed, unless it is to themselves, to provide a service. It is however, good practice to take any necessary steps.

Disability is described by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) in the following terms - physical or mental impairment that has a substantial or long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities. To affect day-to-day activities, an affect must be one of the following broad categories - mobility; manual dexterity; physical co-ordination; continence; lifting, carrying or moving objects; speech; hearing; eyesight; memory; concentration; learning or understanding; recognition of physical danger, disfigurement.

In 2004 the H&S Officer identified a number of barriers to people with disabilities. The most significant findings were that a number of areas in our buildings are not fully wheelchair accessible. Over the next several years, we focused on these barriers, which denied access to the facilities on a day-to-day basis.

Aim

This report describes measures Dowdales School will take in the current year to identify, remove and prevent the remaining barriers to people with disabilities who utilise the facilities and services of Dowdales School, including staff.

Objectives

This report:

1. Describes the process by which Dowdales School will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Describes the measures the School will take in the coming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes how the School will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Dowdales School Commitment to Accessibility Planning

Dowdales School is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all facilities and services for all those with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

Informal Site Audit of Facilities

In September 2009, the H&S Officer completed a survey of the facilities in particular to assess any barriers that may exist and recommend solutions to removing those barriers in order to comply with the current legislation.

There has been 1 barrier identified in the Main Block.

Review and Monitoring of the Process

Dowdales School is committed to following through with this plan. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually thus allowing Visitors and Staff to monitor the barriers identified and the progress the School is achieving to remove all barriers.

Communication of the Plan

This Plan will be available at Dowdales School, it will be published in the Governors' Report to Parents and it will be published on the school external website. Every attempt will be made to meet the requirements of those with disabilities to ensure the Plan is available for their perusal and review.

**BARRIERS IDENTIFIED
IN DOWDALES SCHOOL**

**BUILDING – MAIN
BLOCK**

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

TYPE

STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL/PREVENTION

Food Technology rooms not accessible by wheelchair.

Architectural

Purchase a "Baby Belling" cooker as it is portable and can be used anywhere.

**BARRIERS
THAT WILL BE
ADDRESSED
IN 2009/2010**

Barrier	Objective	Means to Removal/Prevent	Performance Criteria	Resources	Timing	Responsibility
Food technology suite not accessible to disabled persons.(wheelchair)	Allow access to food preparation. Purchase a "Baby Belling" cooker which can be used anywhere.	Secure funding	Obtain estimates	Staff time	Summer 2010	DYo / LSt