



Cheltenham College Disability Policy

Introduction

Cheltenham College does not discriminate against disabled pupils or staff. This policy is designed to treat all pupils and staff, regardless of any disability they may have, fairly and equally. All pupils and staff are made aware that disabled people have the same rights and aspirations as able-bodied people.

The College welcomes all pupils, subject to meeting the College's entry criteria, who can make the most of the opportunities offered and can flourish in the caring environment of the College. The College recognises that it must be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by the pupil's peers so that the pupil will benefit from the College experience as a whole.

Physical Accessibility

A copy of the College's Accessibility Plan may be downloaded from the College website. One of the problems the College has, in common with many other schools, is its lay-out. Its site covers a wide area and consists of many separate Grade I and II listed buildings, many of which are several stories and almost all without lifts. The Senior School curriculum is based around fixed classrooms for each subject, so that all the facilities for one subject are in one place. This arrangement requires pupils to move from classroom to classroom, often up steps or stairs in buildings without lifts.

The Junior School classrooms are, to a degree, more accessible for non-ambulant and semi-ambulant pupils with both permanent and temporary ramps. Boarding Houses pose the same problems but to a greater degree.

Naturally pupils with impaired mobility are put at a disadvantage by these problems, if not prohibited altogether from access to some or all of the educational and other facilities that the College offers: nor can these matters be remedied in any substantial way by reasonable adjustments short of making major alterations to physical features of the College at prohibitive cost. Whilst the College Development Plan will go some way to ameliorate the problem, it will not solve all the issues.

Cheltenham College has an active monitoring policy and does its best to make adjustments to take account of an individual pupil's needs. This is within the constraints imposed by the College's historic Grade I and Grade II listed buildings on a scattered site and within the limited funds available. The College is progressively introducing facilities for wheelchair users as buildings are upgraded.

Admissions

Cheltenham College considers every child as an individual and welcomes pupils with physical disabilities provided they are able to cope with the demands of the College site. Parents should discuss the requirements of their child with the Director of Admissions before registering them for entrance examinations so that the College may make adequate provision. While assessing any pupil, or prospective pupil, the

College may take advice and require such assessments that it regards appropriate. Subject to this, the College respects any request for confidentiality.

On entry

Every pupil with a disability requires special consideration and treatment. The College consults carefully with parents and the pupils' medical advisers about the adjustments which may reasonably be made for the pupil once they have accepted an offer of a place and before they become a pupil at the College.

The College recognises that some disabled pupils may also require specialist support from the Learning Support Department and this would normally be discussed with the parents before a child enters the College. Copies of the College's Learning Support Policy may be downloaded from the College website.

All pupils at Cheltenham College are required to have a laptop. The College is able to provide large print documents for those pupils who have impaired vision.

Medical Centre

The College has a Medical Centre, open daily during office hours, and qualified nurses are always available in an emergency. The College Doctor holds a daily surgery.

The Medical Centre team are always happy to discuss any pupil's health problems with parents and the management of any medical condition.

Staff training

College teaching staff receive training on the learning needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

Welfare

The College takes great care to provide a safe, caring environment for all its pupils and staff. House and teaching staff are aware of pupils' disabilities and Matrons are trained to administer medicines in certain circumstances. All Matrons are trained in first aid.

The College has an excellent pastoral care system based on tutors and house staff and there is also a College Counsellor and the Chaplain. All staff are regularly trained in child protection issues and the College has a Senior Designated Person for child protection and a designated Council member who is responsible for child protection issues.

September 2010

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