



# The Earls High School

A Specialist College for the Performing Arts

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN (DISABILITY POLICY)

### 1. Introduction to policy

The Earls' school buildings are predominately well designed to meet the needs of disabled pupils:

- the school has a new lift in the Music Block designed to give whole school access to students in wheel chairs
- all faculties have access to ground floor classrooms that can be rotated to meet pupils' needs
- all public-access rooms, including front and back entrances, toilets, library, and hall are on the ground floor, with no steps
- there are disabled toilets located in A Block and E Block and the Cricket Pavillion
- care room with hoist and showering facilities

### 2. Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

### 3. Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to full participation in the school community for pupils, prospective pupils and our adult users with a disability.

### 4. Principles

i) Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school's SEN policy;

ii) The school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA):

- not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
- to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- to publish an Accessibility Plan
- In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002)
- The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality

- The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:
  - setting suitable learning challenges
  - responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
  - overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual and groups of pupils

#### 5. Delivery of the curriculum

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.

#### 6. Physical environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and other users with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

#### 7. Provision of information in other formats

The school is aware of local services, including those provided through the LA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

#### 8. Linked Policies

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, e.g.

- School Improvement Plan
- Staff Development Plan
- SEN Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Curriculum policies

The plan is also available in the following formats, on request to [info@earls.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@earls.dudley.sch.uk) : email; enlarged print version; other formats by arrangement.