

Accessibility Plan

Physical layout of the College and its boarding facilities

Ty Llandingat (Junior Boys and Junior Girls 6-12)

- The house has no classrooms and houses Junior Boarding Boys and Girls. The building is a 19th Century Grade 2 listed building and has three floors. There are no lifts to convey staff or pupils to any of the upper floors. It is not practical or realistic to provide such facilities and also, given the listed building category, we may not be permitted to make such alterations to the internal fabric of the building. It would not therefore be possible to accept people with severely impaired mobility.

Main Campus – Main Building / (Middle and Senior Girls 13 – 18/Teilo, Middle and Senior Boys 13 – 18/Cadog)

- The Main Building houses boarding facilities for Middle and Senior Girls and Boys, the College Great (Dining) Hall and kitchens, the College Library and the office and administration section of the school. The building is mid to late 19th Century and has multiple floor levels with differing floor levels within each floor. As the boarding accommodation is on the second and third floor of the main building it would not be practical or realistic to install disabled facilities or provide accessibility to more than the ground floor rooms. The Main Building is also Grade 2 listed and we may not be permitted to make alterations to the internal fabric of the building.

Ty Ddewi (Senior Boys 16 – 18)

- The house was built in the early 1960's, is occupied by Senior Day Boys and Senior Boarding Boys and has no classrooms. There are three floors and on the ground floor there is accommodation for two disabled pupils.

Ty Llanofer (Middle and Senior Girls 13 – 18)

- The house was built in the late 1980's and is occupied by Middle and Senior Boarding Girls. There are three floors and there is one room on the ground floor that could accommodate disabled pupils.
- Therefore, for the reasons given above the College would have to limit the choice available to pupils with mobility difficulties to the following – Ty Llanofer and Ty Ddewi. Since both houses are Middle and Senior houses it would not be possible to accommodate boy and girl boarders younger than 13 years of age.

Education

- The following classrooms can accommodate disabled pupils:
Thomas Phillips Centre (Maths and Humanities)
- The Senior Management Team has considered the problems of physical access caused by the fixed classroom system elsewhere on campus and has concluded that the following classrooms could be made accessible to pupils with mobility difficulties:
Humanities Block
Performing Arts Centre
Welsh Block
Music Block
IT Suite
English and Drama

Sports Science

- The following classrooms could not easily be made accessible:
Science Block
- Certain lessons therefore that are not equipment dependent could be moved, but the science based subjects are heavily equipment dependent and would be a problem. Each case of admittance would have to be judged on the circumstances pertaining at the time and the level of disability of the pupil concerned.
- The problems regarding Health and Safety and Risk Assessment for disabled pupils have been examined in detail by the Committee. If the Science Block could be made accessible to pupils with mobility impairment then all the Science based subjects could be taught. However, for pupils with sight and hearing impediments there could be significant problems with Science practicals. However, it may be feasible to continue to provide teaching in these subjects through a remotely controlled audio-visual camera system operating in a safe but dispersed classroom. The system could also be used for pupils who would be allergic to certain chemicals. The cost of this provision however could be significant.

Recreational Activities

- The Committee has considered the difficulties of access to particular activities for the specified types of disability. The College is committed to ensuring that disabled pupils would be fully included within the recreational activities programme. However, access to particular facilities may be difficult for certain pupils.
- The College does offer a wide range of recreational activities, many of which are strictly controlled and supervised because of Health and Safety issues. For instance, CCF, sub-aqua, climbing, fencing and canoeing are considered high risk recreational activities. It is possible that in some circumstances the level of supervision and care required to enable a disabled pupil to participate safely in an activity would not be possible and moreover their inclusion could endanger the remainder of any other individuals in the party. Nevertheless, for all those activities that are not already classified as high risk, there would be no insurmountable difficulty in making these available to a disabled pupil. Moreover, the College does run a very successful and popular Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and is aware that the Scheme gives specific guidance to enable disabled pupils to achieve awards.

Sporting Education and Activities

- The Committee has considered difficulties of access for sporting education for specified types of disability. The College is determined to ensure disabled pupils would be fully included within the sporting activities programme. The College Sports Hall, astroturf and playing fields are all accessible for pupils with impaired mobility. The College is fortunate to have significant sporting facilities and offers a wide range of different sports and is able to ensure that disabled pupils would be able to participate in many sporting activities at an appropriate level. For contact sports such as rugby it would obviously not be safe for disabled pupils to participate.

Welfare

- The Committee has considered the particular needs of a disabled pupil. His or her Houseparent and Tutor would be made fully aware of their needs and would work closely with other agencies of support within the College such as the Medical Centre. Parents would also be encouraged to participate fully in dialogue with the College to ensure the welfare needs of the pupil are fully met. Where appropriate the normal monitoring system for new pupils may be extended.
- Any complaints should be addressed in the first instance to the Warden.

Awareness and observance of the policy

- The Senior Management Team will be responsible for the overall implementation of this Policy and ensure that staff are given the appropriate general training and guidance and that they are given accurate information about the specific disabilities of an individual pupil.

Statement on the College's Policy & educational response to Dyslexia & Special Needs

- Llandovery College Learning Support Department caters for students who have high average (or above) ability with mild or moderate dyslexia, dyspraxia, or similar problems. The College provides an ideal environment for such children because it is small and friendly, and therefore is able to give the individual care that such pupils often require. The academic, social, and emotional needs of the students are well considered. Small classes and a focused approach result in increased confidence and improved skills, and our record of academic achievement for the students on our learning support register is very good.

tdw – 16/11/09