LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL RUGBY

A Teaching School Hub

Accessibility Policy

Review date	Summer 2025
Review period	Annual by SLT Triennial by Pastoral Committee
Next Review date	Summer 2026
Reviewed by	Becca Wall, SENCO
Approving committee	Pastoral Committee
Policy type	Legislative
Other related policies	Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy • Equality Duties Policy - Equalities Information. • SEN Policy. • Curriculum Policy. • Whole School Development Plan.

1. CONTEXT

This plan seeks to address the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) and to further improve all aspects of the physical environment of the school site and other resources so that all disabled pupils can take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by the school.

Lawrence Sheriff School is an inclusive community which welcomes students, staff and visitors with disabilities.

The school employs a SENCO and one full time and two part time Learning Mentors, as well as buying in additional specialist services on a needs basis.

The paragraphs below set out the arrangements that we make to meet the needs of disabled students, parents and visitors to the school.

2. ADMISSIONS

Parents of disabled students seeking a place at Lawrence Sheriff School are encouraged to make contact with the school as early as possible so that the student's needs can be established. Every effort will be made to accommodate disabled students sitting the selection tests.

Arrangements for disabled students seeking entry to Year 7 will be as agreed centrally between Warwickshire Local Authority and the headteachers of the selective schools in East Warwickshire.

Students with special educational needs, who have had a school organised access arrangement assessment carried out by an assessor holding a recognised qualification in assessing children with special educational needs, will receive an additional time allowance in tests and exams of up to 50%, provided that such an allowance forms part of the assessor's recommendations. An amanuensis, enlarged papers and other requirements will also be met subject to sufficient notice of the need being given.

The parents of disabled students seeking entry to the Sixth Form should contact the Head of Sixth Form in advance of the Sixth Form Information Evening, so that arrangements can be made for the student to be able to access the relevant subject talks.

3. STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT DISABLED STUDENTS FROM BEING TREATED LESS FAVOURABLY

The school's core values of care and respect for others help to create a collaborative ethos in which differences are respected and valued. This is reinforced by work undertaken through the Pastoral curriculum, including lessons delivered in PHSE, and in the messages given in assemblies which challenge stereotypes and prejudice.

Disabled students' learning needs are discussed with them and their parents and detailed plans put in place to ensure that each student can access the whole curriculum. Access arrangements such as additional time in examinations and assessments are available to all students who have evidence of need and will be discussed on an individual basis. Disabled students are encouraged to participate in school trips (including residential trips). If necessary, special arrangements are put in place to enable them to do this (including a facility for a parent or a carer to accompany the student).

4. ACCESS TO FACILITIES

Mobility impairment

The school is wheelchair friendly with ramps providing access to all buildings. Lifts enable wheelchair users to reach the upper floors of the main buildings and the Science building, however it has not been possible to provide access to Rooms 15, 16, 17, 34, 36 and the upper floor of the Technology Block, Penrhos House or to the upper floors of the Sheriff Centre given the age and physical condition of the building. Any lessons, events or meetings due to be held in these locations will be re-roomed on the timetable or relocated to a suitable venue, if appropriate. The school's sports facilities are located approximately one mile from the school. The school reviews issues around access to the sporting facilities on an individual basis. Designated car parking for disabled drivers is available at both the front and rear of the school.

Hearing impairment

A hearing loop is installed in the main hall and a portable induction loop is available in school for individual events such as parent consultations. Staff receive training in using microphone systems and radio aids, plus cochlear implant and deaf awareness training. The school has a well-established link with the Hearing Impaired Service in Coventry to provide sign language interpreters when required.

Sight impairment

Large text copies of any documentation will be provided, or alternative format, on request.

Parents/Carers with disabilities

When students receive their offer packs the student data sheet requests information about any additional needs which parents may have so that the school can offer support. Current parental requirements include:

- sign language interpreters required for parent consultations/meetings;
- induction loop availability;
- hearing dog access;
- wheelchair access;
- communication via text messaging rather than telephone calls.

Additional family members or other visitors with disabilities are welcome to attend school events for which access will be facilitated as required. If you are disabled, or are planning to bring a disabled visitor to a school event, please contact the school in advance so that we can plan to meet your needs.

Temporary disabilities

Some students may experience temporary disabilities following an accident or illness. The school adapts its timetable and makes additional arrangements for students as appropriate, for example re-rooming classes, allowing students on crutches to leave lessons slightly early to enable them to move around the site when it is less busy, or providing additional written materials for students who are unable to write.

Not Covered?

We recognise that some students, parents and visitors may have needs that are not covered by the arrangements detailed above. If that is the case, please contact the Wellbeing Manager, to discuss how we can help.