



THE
**MANDEVILLE
SCHOOL**
BELIEVE · ACHIEVE · SUCCEED

Accessibility Plan

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Contents

Vision & Values	3
Statement Of General Policy	3
The School Site	3
Improvements to Accessibility Have Been Made	4
Improvements for the Future	4
Strategies	4
Physical Planning	5
Stairs	5
Lighting	5
Doors	5
Corridors	6
Toilet Facilities	6
Travel Arrangements	6
Equipment	6
AUDITS	6

Vision & Values

Our Vision

At TMS we want to 'Believe Achieve Succeed'. We believe all stakeholders should have high aspirations for our students, we believe they can achieve the highest academic outcomes, and that they will become successful citizens equipped to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Values

Believe

We believe all our students will be successful

Achieve

We believe our students will all achieve excellent academic outcomes

Succeed

We believe our students will become successful citizens equipped to be the leaders of tomorrow

Statement Of General Policy

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies, including schools, to actively promote disability equality and to make reasonable adjustments for students and visitors with disability.

The Mandeville School is committed to promoting the elimination of harassment of disabled people, positive attitudes and encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life. This is reflected in our school vision statement, that we will be a kind community where **everyone** perseveres, achieves, and flourishes. This vision means we have a philosophy that every member of our community will achieve success through learning built upon the foundation of a stimulating, exciting, challenging, enriching and inclusive learning environment enabling all learners to become the very best version of themselves.

The School Site

The school site presents a number of difficulties for physical access as it is located on an uneven site and with the majority of the six buildings (below) being in excess of 60 years old and consequently providing poor accessibility in terms of current expectations for public buildings.

North Building – Consists of an original single-storey building (1962) and an attached new two-storey (2015) building linking the gymnasium with the existing block. The extension has a lift for movement of equipment and those who require an alternative to stairs.

East Building – Two-story building (1962) with 1 x internal staircase for access to the first floor.

South Building (and canteen) – Two-story building (1962 with extension built during 1980s) with 2 x 2 staircase either end and in centre. This building has a lift at one end. The canteen extension was built in 2020, but does not fundamentally affect the accessibility of the building.

West Building – Five story structure (1962) with two internal staircases separated at each level except to the top level where a single staircase leads to a single classroom on the fifth floor.

The House – This is a two-story building with 1 x staircase to the top floor, a former residential property for the caretaker.

The William Harding Centre (1977) – a single story structure.

Improvements to Accessibility Have Been Made

In the past two decades changes have been made to the site in order to improve accessibility:

- The improvement of the lift in the South Building
- Level access to the MUGA and replacement of paving slabs with smooth tarmac on some paths.
- Improvements to lighting in the Sports Hall and some classrooms in 2023.
- Replacement of projectors in classrooms with high-definition screens and improved blinds to reduce glare.

Improvements for the Future

Substantial improvements should be considered within the buildings. These are summarised as:

- To improve lighting to key areas of the school, to improve access for students and adults with limited eyesight.
- To arrange regular servicing of lifts to ensure they are in working order.
- Addition of a lift to the West Building, which would require substantial structural works.

Strategies

- **Integration** - the plan for accessibility overlaps with activity in other areas. Some of these are already in place and in particular those in relation to those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and students with English as an Additional Language.
- **Curriculum** – The Mandevice School actively promotes positive attitudes to all individuals regardless of race, gender, disability or age through our whole school ethos and our Personal Development Curriculum.
- **Inspections** - regular inspections of the premises are in place, which include consideration of any matters that are detrimental to health and safety. This will include any accessibility deterioration.
- **Building Works** – as building work and developments of the site are undertaken accessibility will always be considered. This is in line with Buckinghamshire County Council's policy that any additions to the school buildings must be fully accessible for students and adults with physical disability or sensory impairment.
- **Anticipation** – consultation is in place with other schools to ensure that individual students with particular needs are identified sufficiently early to enable actions, as far as they can be, to be put in place. This could include class location planning to minimise/eliminate limitations that accessibility restraints might otherwise cause.

Physical Planning

Stairs

The school has a considerable number of stairs at frequent intervals. Some parts of the

existing school building, such as the West Building, are limited by stair access and in this case the installation of lifts is extremely complex. In these situations, curriculum resources and rooms available are such that thoughtful allocation of the accessible rooms on the timetable will facilitate access.

A number of ramps exist around the site to allow wheelchair access to most areas of the school but access remains restricted to a few areas. In these areas the space available is insufficient to easily construct additional ramps.

Lighting

Not all existing classrooms meet the current standards required for those with visual impairment. Where refurbishment work is planned lighting is upgraded as part of the work wherever possible. Nonetheless, significant upgrades have been made to lighting in a number of classrooms since 2022 and screens have replaced projectors.

Doors

Generally, door widths are not large enough to accommodate wheelchair users and swing doors to facilitate fire prevention may be hazardous. It is not possible to enable wider access to wheelchair users without major rebuilding of the existing school building and this level of capital investment would be the responsibility of Insignis Academy Trust.

Corridors

Generally, corridors are not wide enough to safely accommodate wheelchair users. It is not possible to enable wider access to wheelchair users without major rebuilding of the existing school building and this level of capital investment would be the responsibility of Insignis Academy Trust. However, accessibility for all can be facilitated by the careful planning of the timetable and adjusting specific lesson change over times as needed.

Toilet Facilities

Disabled toilet facilities are available in the STEM Block, ground floor corridor, in the PE and Main Reception areas.

Travel Arrangements

There are 4 disabled parking spaces allocated to the front of the main reception with additional 3 in the staff car park.

Equipment

Some specialised equipment is available within the school but as this is specific to individual need cost makes it inappropriate to hold stocks of such equipment. The school will obtain appropriate equipment as required this may include:

- Special desks/chairs
- Computer equipment/software

- Science and technology equipment
- Adaptable desks and chairs

AUDITS

To ensure that The Mandeville School continues to move in the right direction annual audits should be undertaken by the Insignis Academy Trust team in conjunction with the Executive Head of School and Head of School as part of their regular Health and Safety site inspections.