



# CASTLE COURT SCHOOL

We have one childhood. It has to be the best.

## **DISABILITY POLICY AND ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Reviewed: October 2025  
Due for Review: October 2026

K Johnson (Head)

## **Ethos and aims**

Castle Court School ('the School') strives to be a fully inclusive and welcoming school and therefore aims to ensure that each and every pupil can participate fully in the life of the School.

## **Definition of disability and scope of the plan**

A child or young person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

The School's Accessibility Plan contains relevant actions to:

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the School's curriculum,
- improve the School's physical environment for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the School, and
- improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

## **How the plan is constructed**

The Director of Operations and the Head develop the plan and may co-opt additional members whose expertise in any field would be of assistance. The policy is further reviewed and approved by an appointed Governor. Together their responsibilities include

1. to review the School's policies, procedures and facilities as they are likely to affect pupils and prospective pupils who are disabled
2. to make recommendations with a view to improving the accessibility of its education in many aspects to pupils or prospective pupils with disabilities by means of reasonable adjustments and by planning for the future
3. to prepare the School's accessibility plan
4. to review such plans and policies as necessary and at least on an annual basis.

They have considered the following when developing and reviewing the plan:

- Admissions
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Exclusions
- Education
- Extra-curricular activities
- Governing body representation
- Physical school environment

- Selection and recruitment of staff
- Sporting education and activities
- Staff training
- Welfare

The school's Governors are ultimately responsible for ensuring the implementation of the accessibility plan during the period to which it relates. A new plan will be drawn up every three years.

This plan relates to the physical built environment and it should be read in conjunction with the School's Admissions Policy and Learning Development Policy which outline the school's approach to educational accessibility.

### **The setting at Castle Court**

One of the challenges which the school has (in common with many other schools) is its layout which covers a wide and gently sloping area. The school consists of several separate buildings, some with two storeys and without lifts, which reflect the school's gradual development during the course of its time in Corfe Mullen.

Another is the system, again common in many prep schools, of having dedicated subject classrooms for each subject in the Prep school, so that specialist materials and equipment can be located in one place. This necessarily entails pupils moving between classrooms and across the school site during the course of the school day.

Due to the layout of the school's site and the nature of its accommodation, problems of accessibility may be encountered by disabled pupils from time to time, which will place those pupils at a significant disadvantage.

### **Building Development Plans**

To improve accessibility for disabled pupils across the site would require major physical alterations to both buildings and their surrounding area. This has all been taken into consideration in recent building developments of the Sports hall and Design Centre. Both of these have been built under current planning conditions and address accessibility. These have significantly moved the school on in terms of accessibility but the school recognises the need to continue address historic areas of concern.

## Targeted Plan September 2021 – September 2026

	Targets	Action and Resource Required	Timescale	Responsibility	Evidence of Implementation	Completed
1	Improve the lighting in Knoll House classrooms to minimum 300lux	New lighting installation	Ahead of Autumn Term 2020	Maintenance	Check Lux level at desk	Yes
2	Provide keyboards for IPAD or laptops to improve access to IT	IT capital purchase	Jan 2021	IT		Yes
3	Improve the lighting in Jubilee classrooms to minimum 300lux	New lighting installation	Summer 2021	Maintenance	Check Lux level at desk	Yes
4	Improve wheelchair access to the Medical Centre	New level access door.	Summer 2025	Maintenance	Access provided	
5	Review level access options to Knoll House and establish plans to improve level access for wheelchair visitors, staff and pupils	Design and planning	Summer 2025	Bursar	Access provided	
6	Carry out feasibility study for installation of ramp access to Wimborne (EYFS)	Design and planning	Jan 2023	Bursar	Designed plans	Yes. Ramps installed Summer 2021
7.	Carry out feasibility study for installation of ramp access to Upper Studland (EYFS)	Design and planning	Aug 2022	Bursar	Completed works	Yes. Ramps installed in Summer 2022

8.	Install level access into lower Studland from parents entrance	Commission works	Jan 2023	Bursar	Completed works	Yes completed Jan 23
9	Carry out feasibility study for installation of level access into Memorial Classroom block from central concourse of the school	Design and Planning Commission Works	September 2025	Operations Manager	Completed works	Yes completed August 2025
10	Carry out feasibility study for installation of level access into Lower Studland Classroom block from grassed area to rear	Design and Planning Commission Works	September 2025	Operations Manager	Completed works	
11	Purchase of buff coloured paper and overlays for teaching/lessons and access arrangements	Ordering and implementation; staff awareness through INSET / staff meetings	September 2023	SENDCO and Director of Teaching and Learning	In stock / Regular Purchasing and appropriately used in line with pupils' needs	Completed but ongoing
12	Purchase of appropriate subscriptions for Widgit (online symbol materials and visual supports for lessons, particularly useful for SEND children)	INSET with staff; subscriptions organised and paid for; budgeted for for future years.	July 2025	SENDCO	Inset training undertaken for staff (in a Staff Meeting); subscription information shared with colleagues; in use across school (not just for SEND pupils).	Completed but ongoing
13	Improvements for level access in the central areas of the site (School Hall,	Design and planning Commission Works	June 2025	Director of Operations	Completed works included: Central concourse area re-landscaped	Completed August 2025

	Memorial, Music Centre, Jubilee). To include re-landscaping the central areas to remove the steps and paved areas (which prevent access for wheelchair users and people with movement disability (also trip hazard)				to include level access to School Hall through main doors from an appropriately sloping tarmac path from the Astro path to the to School Hall. The works also removed steps from School Hall to the Sports Hall with a sloping tarmac path. This project improved access to the School Hall from the Knoll House and the Pre Prep play area and from the School Hall to the Jubilee Block and Sports Hall. The Pre-Prep play area was extended, and School Flag repositioned in a rockery at the same time.	
14	Improvements for level access to the Memorial Building	Design and planning Commission Works	June 2025	Director of Operations	Completed works included: Memorial steps removed and replaced with a wooden deck grip ramp which also connected two astro covered raised deck areas in	Completed August 2025

					place of the old, paved steps areas. Priority given to ensuring level threshold access to Memorial and safer access to building via ramp not steps.	
15	Level access from School Hall entrance and central concourse to the Music Centre	Design and planning Commission Works	June 2025	Director of Operations	Removal of steps and paved pathway between the Drama Studio and Memorial – leading to the Music Centre. Replaced with sloping tarmac path that guarantees level access to the Music Centre.	Completed August 2025
16	Sloping path from Knoll House to Central School Site within Zone 1 fence. Connecting Knoll House dining and function suites with the educational school site with a tarmac path. To include appropriate lighting.	Design and planning Commission Works	June 2025 for completion August 2026 (or before)	Director of Operations	Removal of paved steps.	

Historically completed works to improve accessibility

Area of School	Work Completed	Date
Sports Hall	Additional Disabled Access Toilet	April 2017
Sports Hall	Level Access Doors	April 2017
Rear of Jubilee	Disabled Parking	August 2017
Design Centre	Level Access Entrance	August 2018
Design Centre	Disabled Toilet	March 2018
Jubilee (upstairs)	Lighting Improvements	August 2019
School Hall	Level access to main doors, drama studio	August 2025
Sports Hall rear	Ramp (not steps) access from School Hall and Jubilee/Scott to Sports Hall	August 2025
Music Centre	Ramp and level access (door threshold) from central school area.	August 2025
Memorial Building	Ramped access and level (door) threshold access installed	August 2025