



## Frome Community College Accessibility Plan 2015 – 2018

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1. This Accessibility Plan has been based on information provided by the Local Authority and gathered from students, parents, staff and governors of the College. It will advise other College planning documents.
2. We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all students, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
3. Frome Community College plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all students, staff and visitors to the school. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:
  - Improve access to the **physical environment** of the College, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers improvements to the physical environment and physical aids to access education.
  - Increase access to the **curriculum** for students with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. This covers learning and teaching and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist **aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
  - Improve the delivery of **written information** to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the College and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.
5. Attached are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.
6. Whole College training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.
7. The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:
  - Curriculum
  - Staff Development
  - Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
  - Inclusion Policy
  - SEND Policy
  - Behaviour Management
  - School Improvement Plan
  - Asset Management Plan
  - School Prospectus
  - Teaching and Learning
8. The Action Plan for physical accessibility will in future relate to the Access Audit of the College. It may not be feasible to undertake some of the works during the life of this Accessibility Plan and therefore some



items will roll forward into subsequent plans. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.

9. The School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.
10. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.
11. The Plan will be monitored through the Students, Families and Community Committee



### **Frome Community College Accessibility Plan**

#### **Improving the Physical Access at Frome Community College**

**We regularly do access audits as required for our students with special educational needs including those at transition. We aim to comply with all regulations by the time the student arrives in September.**

<b>Items pending</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Edge of steps – not all steps stand out	Paint contrasting Colour to edge of steps	Summer 2015
Uneven paving - this presents a trip hazard and difficulties for wheelchair users	Ongoing project to remove uneven areas in pathways, mainly cause by the large amount of trees around the site	Summer 2015 and ongoing
Contrasting doorways - Some doorways do not contrast with their surroundings	Ensure all doorways contrast	Summer 2015
Flooring – some old flooring produces a lot of glare and is not sound absorbent	Review flooring especially in Science. Fit carpet or acoustic flooring that reduces noise levels	Summer 2015 and ongoing
Hoists and evacuation chair	Train staff in the correct procedure	Autumn 2014 and ongoing
Lighting – E Block	Lighting is poor and needs and upgrade as part of a refurbishment plan	Summer 2015
Heating – E Block	Fan convectors are noisy. Investigate fitting radiators to replace	Summer 2015



**Frome Community College - School Accessibility Plan**

**Improving the Curriculum Access at Frome Community College**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all students.	Review the specific needs for students living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations.	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life-preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available. An increase in aspirations	Dec 2015
Ensure all students have access to the full range of school activities, including extra-curricular and visits	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation by Dec 15 and then identify any measure necessary.	All pupils have access to all activities	Dec 2015
Ensure all staff and governors are aware of barriers to learning and participation and how to overcome them.	Provide training for governors, staff, students and parents	Whole College community aware of issues relating to Access. Society will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment	July 2016

**Frome Community College - Accessibility Plan**

**Improving the Delivery of Written Information at Frome Community College**

<b>TARGET</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
Make available College brochures, newsletters and other information for parents in a number of alternative formats as requested	Review all current College publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it	All College information contains a statement that we can provide alternative formats. College information available in a number of other formats on request.	September 2015
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Get advice from LA on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customized materials	A version of all College information available in Braille on request	December 2015
Investigate new ways of communicating with stakeholders, including social media and parentpay	Produce implementation plan to improve communication. Detailing the staff responsibilities	More parents receive communication in the format they prefer	May 2015

## Appendix 1

### **ACCESS PLAN**

#### Rooms:

- Accessible through doorways
- Arrangement of furniture to allow free wheelchair movement

#### Furniture:

- Height of desks to be appropriate to accommodate wheelchair users comfortably
- Invest in specialist ovens for the Food Technology department
- At least one classroom within the Physics, Chemistry and Biology departments to have adjustable height work benches with gas taps

#### Doors:

- Number of sensory electronic doors to be increased in high use areas, of particular importance access to reception
- Number of button pressed self-opening doors to be increased across the premises

#### Steps/Stairs:

- Contrast colour on edge of step/stairs
- Where necessary emergency evacuation equipment fitted to stairs

#### Access to Sports Centre:

- This should be enabled by access from the car park. This will require the kerbs to be dropped in certain areas

#### Speed bumps:

- Speed bumps need to be altered round site to enable wheelchair access to the side of them

#### Written:

- The ability to produce information in Braille

#### Hearing impaired:

- Acoustic sound checks of classrooms..... including indoor PE areas and large social areas

#### Training Staff:

- In the correct manual handling of disabled people
- The use of hoists and the evacuation chair: to ensure more teaching and support staff are trained in this procedure

#### Area for Student Personal Care:

- The use of which is restricted to trained staff which includes a storage area for disabled persons' equipment

#### Disabled parents / visitors to college and parents' evening:

- Identify in advance disabled visitors to ensure routes to destinations are accessible; of particular importance the theatre
- Offer appropriate accommodation where necessary to visiting associates
- Make it aware to staff members that they may be asked to relocate to meet disabled visitors
- Advertise the importance of parent return forms for those in need of wheelchair access or who have mobility issues prior to arrival at the college

#### Student awareness:

- Ensuring all students understand the difficulties faced by disabled students to create a more welcoming environment

Transport:

- College to ensure funding for specialist wheelchair access to public and privately owned vehicles on educational visits.