

## **Accessibility Statement and Plan November 2019 Reviewed Annually**

Carew Academy's Accessibility Statement and Accessibility Plan comply with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010.

### **Access to Premises and Facilities:**

Carew Academy is situated in Carew Manor, a 15th century building located in Beddington Park. The Manor House was rebuilt in its present form in about 1709 and boasts a Great Tudor Hall with a fine arch braced hammer beam roof. It is the only Grade 1 listed building in the London Borough of Sutton.

Whilst the scheduling of Carew Manor rightly ensures the preservation of this historic building for future generations to enjoy, it also provides the Academy Trust with some insurmountable challenges when trying to undertake measures to improve access for all i.e. installation of elevators or widening of doorways to provide wheelchair access.

The Academy Trust take our responsibilities for providing universal access provision very seriously and adhere to the Equality Act accordingly. We strive to provide the highest levels of access to the whole site that we can, but in a number of areas, due to both the historic nature of the building and Health and Safety requirements, this is not currently possible.

We have provision for wheelchair access at the rear of the building, which gives accessibility to the majority of the ground floor of the school. We have one disabled toilet on the ground floor of the building that is fully accessible to wheelchair users. We have also undertaken some major exterior surfacing works to our pathways and car parking areas to aid wheelchair mobility. Due to the age and composition of the main school building, there is no wheelchair access to any of the first floor classroom areas.

The school has recently had a temporary building situated on the Lower School playground which provides two further fully accessible classrooms.

The Academy Trust will continue to identify and plan for any possible improvements that will lead to the school becoming fully accessible in the future.

### **Access to the Curriculum:**

The Academy strives to develop the full potential of everyone within its community and is able to provide a broad and wide ranging curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of individual pupils. We are also able to offer pupils other opportunities through life-skills based lessons, residential visits, work experience and access to therapies, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Music and Drama Therapy.

All pupils that come to Carew Academy will have had a comprehensive assessment of their needs, both prior to joining and during their time here. This is our starting point for planning that will meet the specific requirements of the individual concerned. When planning, teachers set appropriate learning objectives and identify support mechanisms that aide students to break down barriers to learning. The Academy holds regular meetings, including annual reviews of Education, Health and Care Plans to ensure that each pupils' individual pathway remains consistent to any changes to their needs.

The Academy uses a wide range of strategies to support pupils including specialist support, e-learning technologies, therapies and extra-curricular activities. We also have strong links with external support agencies, which are regularly utilised for the added benefit of our students.

Information on our full curriculum offer can be found elsewhere on our website.

### **Access to Information, Advice and Careers Guidance:**

Carew Academy's website is maintained by Orchard Hill College Academy Trust and we endeavour to ensure that all information is current and accessible to pupils, parents/carers, staff and other stakeholders. The website is presented in clear easy to read fonts and is available in a number of languages.

There is a contact us form on the website to enable stakeholders to make direct contact with the school online. Information available on the website is available as a paper copy free of charge.

All documents can be provided in larger fonts upon request. We have an open door policy at the school and are always happy to support parents, carers and other stakeholders to access any information that they require.

Carew Academy holds regular Parent / Carer events throughout the year and parents are welcome to contact the school and make an appointment to meet with a member of staff at other times. All students have home school diaries that enable regular contact between home and the teaching staff which are used very effectively on a day to day basis.

## Accessibility Plan 2019

As mentioned above, the Accessibility of our School is limited by its Grade 1 and 2 listed status, which limit the accessibility of the current site.

Our ultimate goal is to move to new premises under the Free Schools Programme. This would ensure a purpose built school environment for our pupils enabling them to take full advantage of improved facilities that are fully accessible to all.

The Accessibility Plan identifies:

- 1) The steps we will take to increase disabled pupils' ability to participate in the curriculum.
- 2) The steps we will take to improve the physical environment of the school so disabled pupils can take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services we offer.
- 3) The steps we will take to improve the availability of accessible information to our disabled pupils.

Target	Strategies	Timescale and Responsibility	Success Criteria
<p><b>1) Curriculum:</b> To continue to develop links with external providers to increase curriculum participation and to offer the broadest possible range of curriculum pathways.</p>	<p>Partnerships with Sporting Chances, SILC etc Horse Riding at the Diamond Centre, Swimming at Waddon Leisure Centre And Climbing at Craggy Island</p>	<p>Ongoing Reviewed Annually Lucy Davey (Head of Lower School)</p>	<p>A wide range of students to have access to offsite provision catering for a range of interests. Curriculum reviewed annually to ensure it is of suitably high quality.</p>
<p><b>2) Physical Environment:</b> To continue to progress our Free School bid to create a purpose built learning environment for our students.</p>	<p>Close liaison with the ESFA throughout the programme delivery. Liaison with contractors to ensure the new build is fit for purpose. Continuing investment in the physical environment at Carew during the Free School programme. Community engagement with the Free School Programme.</p>	<p>Free School Opening  Rob Watkins (Principal)</p>	<p>The new purpose built school opens on its new site, with design features to improve the education we offer our students through close collaboration with the contractor.</p>
<p><b>3) Information:</b> To continue to develop information so that it is accessible to all our pupils including resources lessons and signs around the school. increase the use of technology around school.</p>	<p>All staff to carry flash cards to help our support communication with pupils. Staff to learn a "sign of the week" in briefing. Building signs to use in symbols and words. Students to be engaged involved in discussions through To Student Ambassador programme. of Increased use of VR and Technology the around the school.</p>	<p>Ongoing Natalie Taylor (Head of Middle School)</p>	<p>Students are able to communicate their views to staff in a variety of ways and staff are able to communicate effectively with all students. Increased use of technology around the school including VR headsets and iPads.</p>