WENTWORTH COLLEGE

Disability Access Plan

Approved by: Manuel Guimaraes, Principal

Last Review: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027

Disability Access Plan

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Wentworth College is a GCSE and A level college open to students of both sexes with a wide ability range and to those of all faiths or none. The College welcomes applications from any prospective student, with or without disabilities or Special Needs and details of our admissions policy is laid out in “Wentworth College: Admissions Policy” and in accordance with The Equality Act 2010.
The admissions procedure aims to ensure that there is a ‘fit’ between college and students. Each party must understand each other and the college must feel confident that both the prospective student and their parents understand the college’s aims and objectives and are fully supportive.
In order to maintain our aims and objectives the college needs to –

- Keep a reasonable balance between the sexes.
- Maintain a balanced spread of ability.

Before accepting a student into the college, Wentworth College needs to be confident that it can support the prospective student in achieving their full potential. Wentworth College’s policy is to apply their admissions policy to all students, regardless of any disability of which the college is aware and to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities.

In determining what is reasonable, the college will have regard to:

- The financial resources available to the college.
- The costs of any particular alteration to the premises, staffing arrangements or special equipment required.
- The practicality of making adjustments.
- The extent to which aids and services will be provided via an EHCP or by provision paid for outside the college’s resources.
- Health and Safety requirements.
- The interests of other students.

Parents or guardians of students with disabilities are requested to notify the college of such disabilities at the point of application. If these are not known at the time, they may be notified at a later date. Prior to any interview or visit, we will need to liaise with the parents and/or with the current college/school to establish what reasonable adjustments can be made at Wentworth College to support the student’s future education.

Wentworth College values all members of the community and all students, including those with special needs, play a full part in college activities. The college places great emphasis on being inclusive, but must ensure that no one pupil's education or safety is impaired by the needs of others.

As part of the admissions procedure, staff will meet with parents to discuss whether or not a prospective student will be able to access the curriculum and what reasonable adjustments can be made to facilitate this. In determining this, the college may take advice and carry out assessments. If, after consultation, the college decides that it cannot discharge its legal and moral responsibilities to educate the prospective student and/or its contractual duties to the parents/ guardians, Wentworth College will be unable to offer a place.

If the college is satisfied that, with reasonable adjustments (and/or with additional support provided from outside the college's resources) the prospective pupil can fully participate in college life, then subject to availability, a place will be offered. These procedures have been reviewed and updated for 2020.

It is possible that during their education students may become disabled or their disability may become more serious. Continuing communication between parents and staff is vital for ensuring that all reasonable adjustments are made to facilitate the pupil's full participation in the college. If the college decides that it can no longer provide a suitable environment for the student to fully participate and thrive, it will consult with parents and, where appropriate, Wentworth College will request and support the move of the student to another establishment.

In order to provide the best facilities for its students, the college operates a system of fixed classrooms for particular subjects. Students need to move between classrooms. However, the laboratories, study room and the common room are all on the ground floor. The main lecture room and examination room are also on the ground floor and if required, class rooms are available on the ground floor for lectures in any subject. Toilet facilities for both male and female students are accessible on the ground floor. These facilities have been reviewed and updated in 2020 and will be looked at again for the academic year 2021/22.

The college is mindful of advancing its programme of access improvement, in terms of purchasing/ providing specialist equipment for individuals, should it become necessary. Wentworth College has made efforts to identify any necessary purchases or provision for the years 2020/21.

The college has a disability access committee, comprising Manuel Guimaraes (Principal), Jody Newman (Proprietor) Karen Nedas (Bursar), Katie Sims (Examinations Officer). This committee meets regularly to review and plan for the current academic year. The committee's responsibilities are:

- To review, regularly, procedures and facilities to maximise accessibility to the college for those with special needs.
- To make recommendations to improve accessibility by means of reasonable adjustments and by preparing and reviewing this plan.
- To monitor the implementation of this plan and to review as necessary.

WELFARE

Wentworth College will continue its strong tradition of inclusivity. We accept differences and value them. All our policies support this approach. The Disability Access committee accepts that future students may feel, or be, marginalised and/or be subject to bullying and teasing and find it difficult to cope. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated at Wentworth College and all students are made aware of the Anti-bullying Policy and regularly reminded of it. Students are encouraged to speak to staff about any concerns, to feel empowered to challenge unfairness on their own behalf or on behalf of others. If it is felt appropriate, counselling can be arranged but only when the student expresses this wish themselves. It is not appropriate for any student, at any time, to attend counselling sessions unwillingly.

Going forward Wentworth College will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments to the college facilities to enable students with disabilities or special needs to be fully included in all aspects of college life. Wentworth College will not be complacent and will continue to improve its accessibility to disabled students, parents, staff and members of the public. Wentworth College has made ground floor lessons fully accessible. Our success over the years with students with a variety of individual needs, from the deaf community, the visually impaired and those with restricted mobility has demonstrated that Wentworth College is a rich and caring environment for all. In 2020/21 Wentworth College will carry out regular reviews of the schools' current maintenance and refurbishment works, to take into account the needs of disabled students and continually review our admissions literature, policy, examinations and procedures to ensure that disabled pupils are treated in a fair and equal way.