

WHITGIFT SUMMER SCHOOL

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Introduction

Whitgift Summer School is non-discriminatory towards students with a physical disability and those with Special Educational Needs. The Summer School is committed to providing access to the curriculum for all. This is in line with the aims of the School which include the following:

- To strive for excellence in all aspects of school life, promoting a culture of achievement, and the celebration of achievement.
- To offer a broad, balanced, and innovative curriculum which challenges all students at an appropriate level.
- To inculcate positive values of mutual respect, tolerance and self-esteem, fostering an informed and critical awareness of the morals prevalent in society.
- To apply a supportive pastoral framework, which both establishes a strong corporate identity and also allows the individual to flourish.
- To offer a rich and broad co-curricular programme which enables both the highest levels of achievement and wide accessibility.

All reasonable steps are taken to accommodate the needs of students to ensure the very best opportunities and provision for all.

Discussion of individual needs may involve the Course Director, Director of International Education, Welfare Manager, Director of Studies, Activity Manager, Summer School Nurse or the Director of Estates and Facilities as appropriate and detailed plans will be drawn up as the need arises on a case-by-case basis. Whitgift Summer school aims to duly observe the new SEND Code and Children and Families Act 2015 as it applies to this School.

Attending Summer School at Whitgift

- Whitgift Summer School adopts an inclusive policy, and students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are offered support during their time with us
- Whitgift School requires parents to inform the school in respect of the disability or special requirements of a prospective student when they book a place.
- Neglecting to share this information may lead to Summer School being unable to meet the needs of the student.

Access around the site

- access will continue to be improved gradually in line with the action plan
- most parts of the site are already accessible by lifts and/or ramps
- at major events staff are available to assist if necessary
- rooming of the timetable may be adjusted on a temporary or permanent basis to take account of the needs of an individual with a specific disability
- needs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and all reasonable steps taken to improve access
- the School regularly adapts to individual cases, for example, access requirements for a student with a leg injury

Courses

The Director of Studies oversees the Intensive General English, Academic Enrichment, Digital Champions and Skills in Academic English courses during the Summer School. Detailed information about the courses can be found in the Statement of Learning (Summer). Key points include:

- a comprehensive system is in place to test students and then place them in the appropriate class according to their English level, age and any known or identified learning difficulties
- teaching materials for students attending our Intensive general English, Academic Enrichment, Digital Champions and Skills in Academic English courses are adapted if needed, as a result of this process

Provision of information

We provide written information to students with disabilities in ways that are user-friendly and fully support the students in their learning experience.

General

Staff and students with diverse needs are supported and welcomed. The School aims to promote equal opportunities in order to ensure equal outcomes are attainable to all.

The Summer School's policies will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the School's policy of inclusiveness.

Reviewed by the Director of International Education, November 2025

Next review: November 2026

APPENDIX 1 - BUILDINGS SURVEY

Main School

The main school, dating from 1931, precedes formalised building requirements for accessibility. Fortuitously, however, the bulk of the ground floor is accessible via two entrances at the northern end of the main corridor and through the dining hall, where ramps have been installed.

An extension to the main school, completed in 1990, has level access to all ground floor areas. A lift gives access to all upper floor areas. In 2006 a stair lift was added to the link corridor from the extension to the original school. This gives access to the upper floor of the latter.

The following areas remain inaccessible:

- Ground floor of Cedar Block (2 x language labs)
- CCF area and a small part of Art Department (2 x studios)
- Geography Department (less one room)
- Headmaster's Office
- Director of Finance and Operations' Office

Temporary Classrooms

Eight temporary classrooms were constructed in 2021 on the site of the Gallery Car Park. The ground floor comprising four classrooms is fully accessible.

The following area remains inaccessible:

- Upper floor (comprising four classrooms)

Performing Arts Complex

The Arts Complex, incorporating the former swimming pool and squash courts, was built in the 1960s. Access is possible to the whole of the ground floor with only the upper floor of the Music School inaccessible.

The following remains inaccessible:

- Upper floor of Music School

Medical Centre

Situated in a 1960s' bungalow the Medical Centre is fully accessible.

Junior School

The Junior School, added in the 1970s, is fully accessible on the ground floor, but remains inaccessible on the upper floor.

The following area remains inaccessible:

- Upper floor of Junior School

Sports & Conference Centre

Completed in 2005, the Sports & Conference Centre is fully accessible. The swimming pool includes a pool lift under an annual service and inspection contract. This facility was fully utilised by the Whitgift Special Needs Activity Project (SNAP) for two weeks in the summer holidays up to 2013. SNAP also utilised large parts of the main school ground floor and the Concert Hall.

Boarding House

The Boarding House, completed in 2013, incorporates the full requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document M. All areas are fully accessible and suitable mobility accommodation is provided.

Grounds

Although access around a parkland site and over sports pitches is never easy, the school site is fully accessible. Access to South Field remains the most challenging but can be accessed by vehicle. Other areas could be improved to ease mobility, and these are highlighted in Whitgift School's Accessibility policy.

Pathways

Pathways are regularly checked and improved by the Grounds staff. Whenever a further development is planned, pathways in that area are reviewed and improved where possible. For example, the kitchen extension resulted in the widening and extension of the pathway past this area.