



**THE WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL
DISABILITY ACCESS POLICY**

Adopted by Board of Governors on: 16 December 2024

To be reviewed: December 2027

1. Introduction

The Wallace High School is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible environment for all students, staff, parents, and visitors, including those with disabilities. This Disability Access Policy outlines our commitment to promoting equal opportunities, removing barriers, and ensuring that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of school life.

2. Legislative Framework

This policy is developed in compliance with relevant legislation, including but not limited to:

- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Northern Ireland)
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order 2005
- The Equality Act 2010

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all aspects of The Wallace High School's operations, including:

- Admission procedures
- Educational programmes and services
- Physical access to school buildings and facilities
- Extracurricular activities
- Communication and information

4. Admission Procedures

The Wallace High School is committed to ensuring that admission procedures are fair and inclusive. We will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities during the admission process.

5. Physical Access to School Buildings and Facilities

The Wallace High School acknowledges the importance of providing accessible physical environments. We are committed to maintaining level access and implementing measures to enhance accessibility within our school buildings.

This includes:

- *Level Access:* The Wallace High School is designed to have level access at key entry points, ensuring that individuals with mobility challenges can navigate the school premises with ease.
- *Lifts:* We understand the importance of vertical access within our multi-level buildings. The Wallace High School is equipped with a number of lifts strategically located to aid access to different floors. These lifts are maintained regularly to ensure their functionality and safety.
- *Accessible Parking Spaces:* In addition to level access and lifts, The Wallace High School is committed to providing accessible parking spaces specifically

designated for disabled users. These spaces will be clearly marked and conveniently located to facilitate ease of access.

- *Adaptations to Facilities:* We recognise that some facilities may require specific adaptations to ensure accessibility. Restrooms and other facilities within the school are subject to regular review to identify and implement necessary adaptations.

6. Educational Programs and Services

The Wallace High School is dedicated to providing reasonable adjustments to accommodate the diverse needs of students with disabilities. This may include:

- Personal Learning Plans (PLPs)
- Specialised teaching methods or materials
- Assistive technologies

7. Extracurricular Activities

All students, regardless of their abilities, are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. The Wallace High School will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that students with disabilities can fully engage in these activities.

8. Communication and Information

The Wallace High School is committed to providing information in accessible formats. This includes school publications, websites, and communication with parents. We will make reasonable adjustments to communication methods to accommodate individuals with specific communication needs.

9. Training and Awareness

Staff members will receive training on disability awareness and inclusivity. This training will promote an understanding of diverse needs and provide guidance on making reasonable adjustments to ensure equal opportunities for all.

10. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness. The Wallace High School will monitor the implementation of this policy and seek feedback from students, staff, and parents to continually improve accessibility and inclusivity.

11. Visitor Accommodation for Specific Disability Requirements and Fire Safety

The Wallace High School is committed to providing a welcoming and accommodating environment for all visitors, including those with specific disability requirements. To ensure that we can meet the unique needs of our visitors, we encourage individuals

to notify either the person they are visiting in advance or inform Reception upon arrival if they have specific disability requirements.

Upon notification, a record of anyone entering the school with a disability or physical impairment will be shared with the Fire Marshall and included in the fire register. This measure is taken to enhance the safety and well-being of all individuals within the school premises.

In addition to this, visitors with disabilities will be made aware of:

- **Fire Escape Routes:** Detailed information on fire escape routes will be provided to ensure that individuals can safely evacuate the building in case of an emergency.
- **Disabled Call Systems:** The location and usage of Disabled Call Systems will be communicated to visitors to facilitate prompt assistance in the event of an emergency.
- **Evacuation Chairs:** The whereabouts and usage of Evacuation Chairs will be highlighted to visitors with mobility challenges, ensuring they are informed of the available resources for safe evacuation.

Moreover, if visitors require additional support during emergencies, they can be provided with emergency contact numbers for the Maintenance Team. This information is intended to aid individuals in getting out of the school safely and efficiently during emergency situations, including fires.

We appreciate the cooperation of our visitors in providing advance notice of specific disability requirements. This commitment reflects our ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity and prioritise the safety of everyone within The Wallace High School community. The procedures outlined in this section will be regularly reviewed and updated to align with best practices in fire safety and disability accommodations.

12. Contact Information

For any queries or concerns related to disability access, please contact:

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