



Disability & Equality Statement Accessibility Plan



THE SCHOOL'S VISION

At Ysgol Maes y Coed we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to ensure that all, including those with a disability, are able to participate fully in school life.

All pupils at Ysgol Maes y Coed have very significant disabilities and it is very important to us to ensure that they make the best possible progress and are able to access all aspects of the school's activities. To ensure that this is the case, we continually monitor the school environment, the teaching approaches and resources we use to ensure that they are as accessible as possible. At Ysgol Maes y Coed, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

THE DISABILITY EQUALITY DUTY

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 places a general duty on schools, who need to have due regard for the following when carrying out their functions:

- Promoting equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- Eliminating discrimination that is unlawful under the DDA;
- Eliminating harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability;
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Encouraging participation in public life by disabled people;
- Taking steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

This is also known as the Disability Equality Duty (DED) and applies to all disabled pupils, staff and those using services provided by schools.



Disability & Equality Statement Accessibility Plan



MONITORING

To meet the Disability Equality Duty, schools are required to monitor the impact of all aspects of school life on children and young people with disabilities. At Ysgol Maes y Coed we do this by observing and highlighting the responses of pupils to the range of activities and experiences they are involved in and by monitoring their achievements in relation to their identified special educational needs.

We also seek to identify and respond to the needs of members of staff who have a disability by making reasonable adjustments where these are needed.

Ysgol Maes y Coed is also a community resource base for children and adults from a range of other schools and services for people with a disability. In making our facilities available to them, we liaise regularly and seek to make continuous improvements to ensure that their particular needs are met.

CONTACT WITH PARENTS & CARERS

When providing newsletters and information for parents and carers, we will seek to ensure that this information is available in an accessible format so that parents or carers who may be, for example, visually impaired, can access the information.

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

The election of parent governors is now covered by the DDA 2005, and the Governing Body will therefore ensure that the procedures for candidates to stand for election and for parents to vote for candidates are accessible to disabled people.

INVOLVEMENT & CONSULTATION

At Ysgol Maes y Coed, the nature of our pupils' complex needs means that formal approaches to consultation with them are not appropriate. However, the ethos of our school is founded on seeking and responding to the needs of pupils at all times.

“We want everything about our school to communicate to pupils:

- that they are valued;
- that what they communicate is important and will be responded to;
- that their way of communicating will be respected;
- that they will be treated with dignity and according to their age and needs
- that their own particular achievements will be recognised and celebrated”



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The *Disability Equality Scheme*, and actions arising from it, reflects the many small responses our pupils make on a day-to-day basis.

The Scheme also reflects the current information we have about the needs of staff. The school encourages staff to discuss any specific needs they may have (including in relation to disability). Staff reviews form part of the school's self evaluation processes.

The school liaises regularly with users of its facilities who come from the wider community.

Our chosen Equality Objectives are

- 1 To annually analyse pupil progress data and identify any areas of inequality in relation to gender, and between other protected groups.
- 2 Develop parents ability to support their pupils with ALN. Developing their ability to communicate through the use of signing for parents of pupils; use of PEC's; develop behaviour strategies, develop parents' knowledge of e safety to support their pupils.
- 3 To develop further awareness raising activities to ensure pupils, parents and staff are able to identify and address any issues of bullying.
- 4 To analyse attendance data and address any inequalities in relation to protected characteristics including pupils e fsm.
- 5 Survey parents and develop appropriate communication including such as text messaging and social media such as Twitter to meet the needs of sharing information with a wide range of parents and stakeholders
- 6 Purchase IT hardware and software to promote independence and improve equality of opportunity for pupils with communication difficulties to access the curriculum through use of assistive technology.