DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

BLS English asks for all students to declare any special needs or disabilities as part of their registration procedure.

We consider each application on an individual basis through open discussion between the Principal, Director of Studies and Accommodation Manager, and will make every effort to welcome disabled students where we are able to meet their needs.

BLS English reserves the right to assess each student's needs and make an informed judgement about the ability of the school to fully meet those needs.

Premises

BLS English is located across two period buildings. BLS English Junior and Residential Centre Springfield House (residence and classrooms) was purchased by BLS English with disabled facilities in mind. There is ground floor access via the rear and flexibility to have one ground floor bedroom.

The Executive Adult Centre, 147, Kings Road has adequate wheelchair access, with classroom and break room facilities along with the main office being situated on the ground floor.

Due to the older style architecture and historic nature of the buildings significant changes cannot be feasibly implemented. Additionally, we are currently restricted by availability of suitable home stay provision.

Our courses and teaching are designed to provide effective training for students who need English for their work, study or travel.

Accommodation

The Cottage accommodation for self-catering adults (18+) is not wheelchair accessible. However, there are three ground floor bedrooms and ground floor kitchen. Doorways are standard width.

There are some hosts who have suitable accommodation for wheelchair access. This is dependent on availability.

Admission

Where the school does not feel it has the resources or expertise to accommodate student's special needs with reasonable adjustment, the school reserves the right to refuse admission.

However, we do want to look at students on an individual basis, so individuals are asked to contact the Office to discuss any needs.

Proposals

We will continue to look for ways to increase access to education for disabled students:

- By leasing premises with ground floor and disabled facilities during busy periods (where reasonably possible).
- By increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the college curriculum.
- By seeking to increase availability of suitable home stay provision.
- By assessing all applications fairly and openly on a case by case basis.
- The Principal will review the proposals annually.

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Next Review January 2024