



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan

**Policy review date- November 2021**

**Person Responsible- Helen Tomlinson**

**Ratified by Academy Council- November 2021**

**Review date- November 2024**

## **Vision Statement**

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan will be reviewed every 3 years or where operational needs dictate and approved by the Academy Council. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Academy Council, an individual or the Headteacher. At St Mary’s Catholic Primary School the Plan will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the Governing Body. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At St Mary’s Catholic Primary School we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

### **Aims:**

Our Aims are:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs
  - To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils, staff and other members of the school community with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.
  - Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community
- 1) The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the school’s activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Resources Committee.
  - 2) St Mary’s Catholic Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to adhering to the principles of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

- 3) The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipates the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

**The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information:**

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, adapting the curriculum as necessary. This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or schools visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010).
  - Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;
  - Where needed, adapt the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include adaptations to hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
- Health & Safety Policy
  - Special Educational Needs Policy
  - Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicines Guidance • Trips and Residential Visits Policy

**Current good practice**

We gather information about any disability or health condition in early communications with parents and carers of children who are new to school. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we ask parents to keep the school informed of any changes to the information they have provided.

**Physical Environment**

There are no areas of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment. Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extracurricular activities present particular challenges, for example lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments and school trips for pupils with medical needs, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible

**Curriculum**

Through planning for individual need, we aim to provide as inclusive an approach as practically possible. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils

with a physical impairment, however all reasonable adjustments are made to support as full an involvement as possible. We seek advice and support from the relevant professionals in order to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments.

### **Information**

Different forms of communication are made available as needs are identified to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is provided in a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff as needed.

### **Access Audit**

The school is housed in a one storey building. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby and has been fitted with a low reception hatch, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. The school does not have any dedicated visitor parking. Visitors to the school use on-street parking, however suitable arrangements for disabled visitors are made when appropriate. There are disabled toilet facilities available in our buildings. These are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Personalised evacuation plans are put in place as required. The school has a high quality hygiene room with hoist.

### **Management, coordination and implementation and review**

- We consult with other professionals and services when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- The Academy Council and Senior Leadership Team work closely with the Local Authority.
- We work closely with parents to consider their children's needs.
- The policy is reviewed every 3 years and/or as children's needs change.
- We make links with other schools to share best practice through regular SENCo network meetings and other communications as needed.

### **Complaints**

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. If there are any complaints relating to the provision for pupils with access needs these will be dealt with in the first instance by the Head of School. The SEND governor or chair of academy council may be involved if the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily.

## Action Plan

### Aim 1: To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability, medical condition or other access needs. Provision may include: Liaison with specialists, CPD for staff, a differentiated curriculum, specialist resources to support learning and access to the curriculum, a range of support staff including trained teaching assistants and access arrangements in place for statutory testing.

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To liaise with pre-schools and nursery providers to prepare for the new intake of children into Reception each year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	May to July annually	Headteacher EYFS Leader and teachers	Provision set in place ready for child/ren start school
To liaise with educational establishments to prepare for the intake of new children who transfer within year	To identify pupils who may need adapted or additional provision	Ongoing as need arises	Headteacher Deputy/SENCo	Provision set in place ready for child/ren start school

<p>To review policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure</p>	<p>To comply with the Equality Act 2010</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT &amp; Academy Council</p>	<p>All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure</p>
<p>To establish and maintain close liaison with parents</p>	<p>To ensure collaboration and information sharing between school and families.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT and all teaching staff</p>	<p>Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning</p>
<p>To establish and maintain close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with additional needs</p>	<p>To ensure collaboration between all key personnel.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT/SENCo, all teaching staff and outside professionals</p>	<p>Clear collaborative working approaches through regular meetings, risk assessment reviews, provision reviews and action planning</p>
<p>To include pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs as fully as possible in the wider curriculum including trips and residential visits as well as extra-curricular provision</p>	<p>Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual children. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT, SENCo and all teaching staff, extra-curricular service providers and educational visits settings</p>	<p>Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made</p>

**Aim 2: To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs can access education and associated services.**

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
<p>Improve the physical school environment</p>	<p>The school will take account the needs of pupils with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting and colour schemes, clear signage and more accessible facilities and fittings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT, site manager and Academy Council</p>	<p>Evidence that appropriate considerations have been made wherever physical school improvements are carried out.</p>
<p>Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with a disability, medical condition or other access needs</p>	<p>Create personalised risk assessments and access plans for individual pupils. Liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and implementing training where needed. Ensure that actions, including emergency evacuation procedures, are clear and that staff are capable of carrying them out.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT, SENCo, all teaching staff and site manager</p>	<p>As full as possible inclusion for all pupils. Safe evacuation in an emergency.</p>

**Aim 3: Improve the delivery of information to pupils, staff, parents/carers and other members of the school community**

Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
<p>To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.</p>	<p>Create and offer information in alternative formats Access arrangements are considered and put into place for statutory testing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SLT, teachers, admin team and SENCo</p>	<p>Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made</p>
<p>Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made for parents with a disability, medical condition or other access needs so as they can fully support their child's education</p>	<p>Adopt a proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of parents and make reasonable adjustments where possible</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Whole school team</p>	<p>Evidence that appropriate considerations and reasonable adjustments have been made, so that parents can fully support their children in their education.</p>