



ST. MARY'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love, Trust & Hope

Accessibility Plan

Date plan last reviewed: Sep 23

Signed by:

M Piper Headteacher Date: 04/09/23

K Hissitt Chair of governors Date: 04/09/23

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Statement of intent

This plan outlines how St. Mary's CE Primary aims to increase access to education for pupils with disabilities in the three areas required by the planning duties in the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. the curriculum, physical environment and information).

A person is regarded as having a disability under the Equality Act where they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This plan aims to:

- Increase the extent to which pupils with disabilities can participate in the curriculum.
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable pupils with disabilities to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils with disabilities.

The above aims will be delivered within a reasonable timeframe, and in ways which are determined after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the views of parents and pupils. In the preparation of an accessibility strategy, the LA will have regard to the need to allocate adequate resources in the implementation of this strategy.

The governing board also recognises its responsibilities towards employees with disabilities and will:

- Monitor recruitment procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with equal opportunities.
- Provide appropriate support and provision for employees with disabilities to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively without barriers.
- Undertake reasonable adjustments to enable staff to access the workplace.

The plan will be resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised in consultation with:

- Pupils' parents.
- The headteacher and other relevant members of staff.
- Academy Councillors.
- External partners.

1. Legal framework

This plan has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- DfE (2014) 'The Equality Act 2010 and schools'
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'

This plan operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Equality Information and Objectives Policy
- Early Years Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The academy council will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that all accessibility planning adheres to and reflects the principles outlined in this plan.
- Approving this plan before it is implemented.
- Monitoring this plan.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff members are aware of pupils' disabilities and medical conditions.
- Establishing whether a new pupil has any disabilities or medical conditions which the school should be aware of.
- Consulting with relevant and reputable experts if challenging situations regarding pupils' disabilities arise.
- Working closely with the governing board, LA and external agencies to effectively create and implement the school's Accessibility Plan.

The SENCO will be responsible for:

- Working closely with the headteacher and governing board to ensure that pupils with SEND are appropriately supported.
- Ensuring they have oversight of the needs of pupils with SEND attending the school, and advising the headteacher in relation to those needs as appropriate.

Staff members will be responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this plan at all times.
- Supporting disabled pupils to access their environment and their education wherever necessary, e.g. by making reasonable adjustments to their practice.
- Ensuring that their actions do not discriminate against any pupil as a result of their disability.

3. The Accessibility Audit

The governing board will undertake an annual Accessibility Audit. The audit will cover the following three areas:

- **Access to the curriculum** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the curriculum on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to the physical environment** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access the physical environment on an equal basis with their peers.
- **Access to information** – the governing board will assess the extent to which pupils with disabilities can access information on an equal basis with their peers.

When conducting the audit, the governing board will consider all kinds of disabilities and impairments, including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Ambulatory disabilities** – this includes pupils who use a wheelchair or mobility aid
- **Dexterity disabilities** – this includes those whose everyday manual handling of objects and fixtures may be impaired
- **Visual disabilities** – this includes those with visual impairments and sensitivities
- **Auditory disabilities** – this includes those with hearing impairments and sensitivities
- **Comprehension** – this includes hidden disabilities, such as autism and dyslexia

The findings from the audit will be used to identify short-, medium- and long-term actions to address specific gaps and improve access.

All actions will be carried out in a reasonable timeframe, and after taking into account pupils' disabilities and the preferences of their parents. The actions that will be undertaken are detailed in the following sections of this document.

Planning duty 1: Curriculum

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review |
|-------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Short term | Implementation of new curriculum. | Audit of the curriculum | Headteacher, teachers, SENCO | Autumn 2023 | Management and teaching staff are aware of the accessibility gaps in the curriculum | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| | Staff members skills to support pupils with SEND (emerging needs of the school) | INSET provided to staff members Training for teachers on adapting the curriculum | Headteacher, external advisors, SENCO | Autumn 2023 (As needs arise) | Staff members have the skills to support pupils with SEND | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| Medium term | School trips taking into account pupils with SEND | Needs of pupils with SEND are incorporated into the planning process | Teachers, SENCO | Autumn 2023 | Planning of school trips takes into account pupils with SEND | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| Long term | Access to lessons for pupils with SEND | Provide adjustments for pupils with SEND, taking advice from other professionals | Headteacher, ICT manager, SENCO, teachers | Autumn 2023 | Pupils with SEND can access lessons | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |

Planning duty 2: Physical environment

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review |
|-------------|--|--|---|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Short term | Ensure physical environment is accessible | Audit of physical environment | Headteacher, SENDCO, Building surveyors | Autumn 2023 | School is aware of accessibility barriers to its physical environment and will make a plan to address them | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| Medium term | Accessibility of the learning environment of pupils with visual/hearing impairments | Incorporation of appropriate colour schemes, speakers etc... | Headteacher, SENDCO, Specialist Services | Autumn 2023 | Learning environment is accessible to pupils with visual/hearing impairments | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| Long term | Accessibility for children with physical disabilities in the school buildings. (If needs emerge) | Construction work undertaken | Headteacher, SENDCO, Specialist Services SBM/building contractors | Autumn 2023 | School buildings are fully accessible | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |

Planning duty 3: Information

| | Issue | What | Who | When | Outcome | Review |
|-------------|--|---|---|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Short term | Ensure school information is accessible | Audit of information and delivery procedures | Headteacher, Office Manager | Autumn 2023 | School is aware of accessibility gaps to its information delivery procedures | Summer 2025 (Ongoing) |
| Medium term | Ensure information is accessible to pupils with visual/hearing impairments | Provide written/verbal information in alternative formats Incorporate appropriate colour schemes, speakers and microphones are available | Headteacher, teachers, SENCO, ICT manager | Autumn 2023 | Written information is fully accessible to children with visual impairments | Summer 2025 (ongoing) |
| Long term | School website is not accessible to children with SEND | Audit of website | ICT manager | Autumn 2023 | Website is fully accessible | Summer 2025 (ongoing) |

Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this plan is September 2024. Any changes to this plan will be communicated to all staff members and relevant stakeholders. This plan will also be reviewed as needs emerge or as pupils are admitted to school.