Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT)
Company Number 10847279

Accessibility Plan – 2026-2027
St Mary's CE Primary

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At St Mary's CE Primary, our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our

school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

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.

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.

Objectives

St Mary's CE Primary 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 taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

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

The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as the able-bodied pupils; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers 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;

- 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;

- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include 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.

The St Mary's CE Primary Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the school prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the ongoing period.

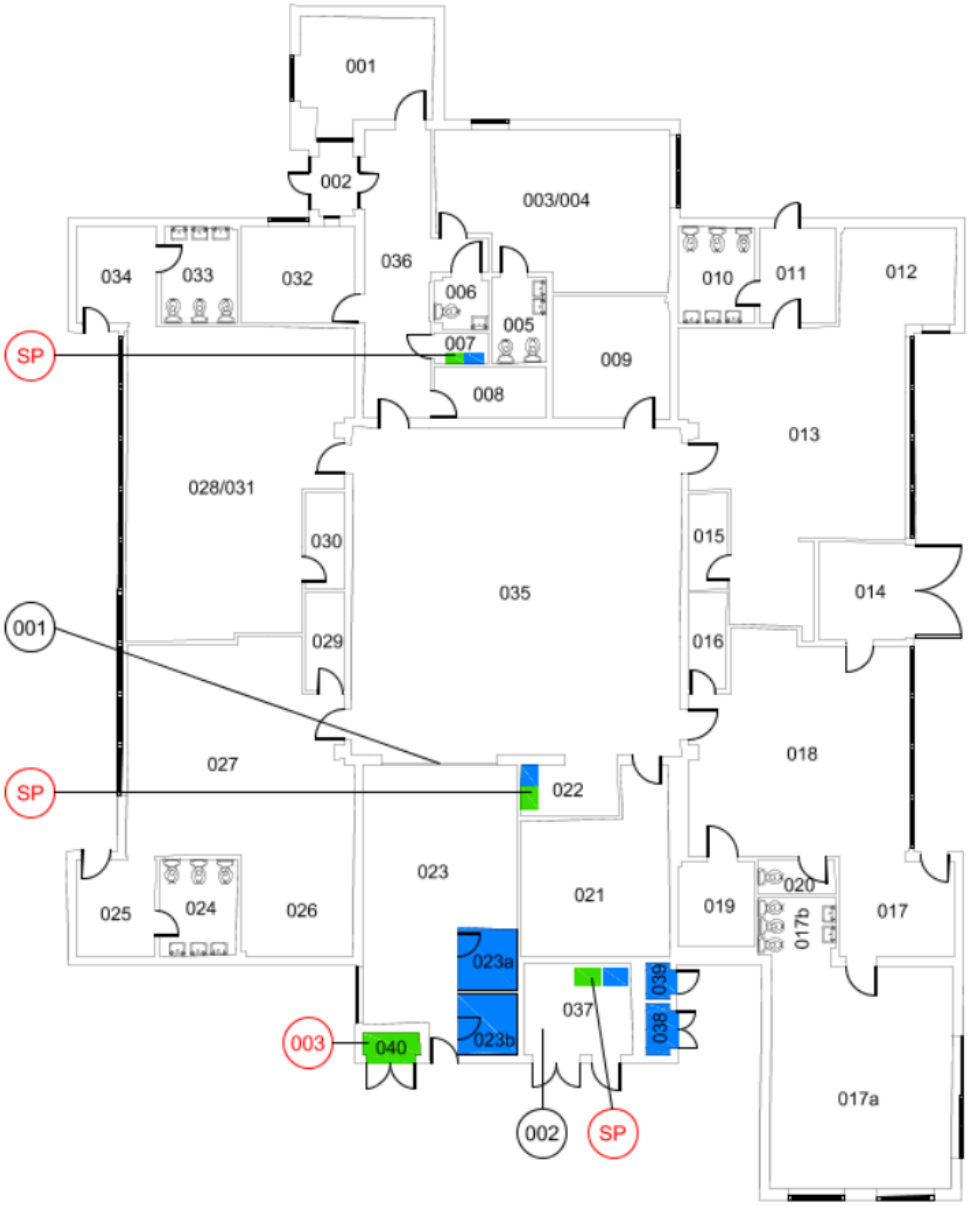
Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- The Governing Body
- Head Teacher

- SENDCo
- School Business Manager
- Caretaker



“Investing in the Uniqueness of Each Individual.”

Physical Access

Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost
Door Access	All doors are level or have ramps in place		
The school is aware of the access needs of disabled pupils, staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors	To create access plans for individual disabled pupils as part of the IEP process when required Be aware of staff, governors and parents access needs and meet as appropriate Through questions and discussions find out the access needs of parents/carers	As required Induction and ongoing if required Annually	
Layout of school to allow access for all pupils to all areas	Consider needs of disabled pupils, parents/carers or visitors when considering any redesign	As required	
Ensure all disabled pupils can be safely evacuated	Put in place Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) for all pupils with difficulties Develop a system to ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities	As required	

Improving the Curriculum Access

Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost	Impact
All teachers are able to more fully meet the requirements of disabled children's needs with regards to accessing the curriculum	Staff to have access to CPD both in school and outside to address needs as required.	Ongoing		Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils including the school curriculum
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	Head of School, teachers, SENCO, ICT manager		Written information is fully accessible to children with visual impairments
Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases	As required		Increase in access to the National Curriculum
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues in order to ensure whole school community aware of issues relating to access	Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school	As required		Community will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment

Training & links	Provide appropriate and relevant ongoing training all staff on matters of inclusion – LAC training, Attachment.	As required		Staff will be skilled and more confident to ensure disabled pupils receive effective support in order for them to access the curriculum.

Access Report Ref.	**Item**	**Activity**	**Timescale**	**Cost**
1.	Learning environment	SENCO and Head of School to lead review learning environment from inclusive perspective	September 2026 – reviewed annually	Staff meeting time and SENCO release time compile findings and recommendations.
2.	SEND Support Plans	SENCO and Head of School to lead updating of SEND support plans.	September 2026 – reviewed annually	
3.	Resources	Class teachers to review organisation of access to resources in individual classrooms and ensure labels and signs are inclusive and promote independence.	September 2026 – reviewed annually	

4.	Training & links	Provide appropriate and relevant ongoing training all staff on matters of inclusion – LAC training, Attachment.	September 2026 – reviewed annually	

Access Report Ref.	Item	Activity	Timescale	Cost
1.	Clear, straight forward and simple communication with parents and community	Information presented in variety of easy to access ways e.g. displayed in window for parents dropping off, sent via email, Class Dojo and on school website. Language used is simple with any education terms/jargon avoided or clearly explained. Parent guides produced & parents sessions run for key areas e.g. phonics, new assessment. Admin & teaching staff aware of individual who may need information explaining directly or personally.	Ongoing.	

2.	Access to info for pupils, parents, carers for who English is additional language.	Website translator	Ongoing	Website update with schools ICT £250
3.	More flexible / easier communication between home and school.	Phone system to allow parents to leave messages 24 hours a day Facility to message via Class Dojo and Arbor Office email address also to be used for communication.	Ongoing	

Monitoring and review

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Head of School. The next scheduled review date for this plan is September 2027. 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.