



# St Mary's

*One Family – Achieving more together*

## **Accessibility Plan 2021-2023**

### **Introduction**

The Accessibility Plan is structured to compliment and support the school's Equality Objectives and this document should be read alongside the school Equalities Plan.

### **The Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 sets out the legal obligations that schools, Early Years providers, Post 16 Institutions and Local Authorities have towards disabled children and young people;

- They must not directly or indirectly discriminate against, harass or victimise disabled children and young people
- They must make reasonable adjustments including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers. The duty is anticipatory – it requires thought to be given in advance to what disabled children and young people may require and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage
- Public bodies, including FE institutions, LA Maintained schools, Maintained Nursery Schools, Academies and Free Schools are covered by the public sector equality duty and when carrying out their functions must have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between disabled, non-disabled children and young people. They must publish information to demonstrate their compliance of this general duty and must prepare and publish objectives to achieve the core aims of the general duty. Objectives must be specific and measurable. (SEND Code of Practice 2014)
- The duties cover discrimination in the provision of services and the provision of education, including admissions and exclusions. (SEND code of practice 2014)

### **The Accessibility Plan**

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document in the Department of Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools. The plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Headteacher. At St Mary's CE Junior School, the plan will form part of the Health and Safety procedures and will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Resources committee.

### **Current Good Practice**

We gather any information about any disability or health condition in early communications with the parents and carers of children that are new to the school. For parents and carers of children who are

already at the school, we ask parents to keep us informed of any changes to the information that they have provided. Through planning for individual need, we aim to produce as inclusive an approach as is practically possible. All reasonable adjustments are made to support full involvement and access to the curriculum and we seek advice and support from relevant professionals when necessary, to ensure that we have made adequate and reasonable adjustments. The plan below sets out our provision and ongoing actions.

### Action Plan Targets

#### Section 1: Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum

Objective	Barrier	Strategies	Status
All staff trained and confident to support disabled pupils as the need arises	Perceived lack of knowledge about how to arrange classrooms for disabled pupils. Lack of experience of teaching disabled pupils	General training to raise staff awareness and confidence. (teachers and support staff) Liaison with accessibility team and specific training as necessary for individual pupils	Training as and when necessary
Review resources for physical activity to ensure all pupils can access the PE curriculum and active break times	Possible lack of knowledge of appropriate equipment available	Work with Specialist Teacher Advisory Service to see what additional equipment could be available for pupils with special physical needs	As and when needed

#### Section 2: Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services

Objective	Barrier	Strategies	Status
Emergency alarm and evacuation procedures to meet the needs of disabled pupils	Understanding the needs and meeting costs for improvements	Ensure physical access for disabled pupils to emergency exits via PEEPs	As and when necessary
Take into account the needs of disabled pupils, staff and parents when undertaking future improvements and refurbishments.	Understanding the needs and meeting costs for improvements	Seek further advice from accessibility and Health and Safety Teams when planning further works	As and when necessary

Section 3: Ensure that the medical needs of pupils and staff are not a barrier to taking part fully in the life of the school met.

Objective	Barrier	Strategies	Status
All staff trained to meet the medical needs of all pupils and staff.	Perceived lack of knowledge about specific medical needs / disabilities	General training to raise staff awareness and confidence. Specific training as and when needed for specific needs	Training as and when necessary
Review the curriculum to ensure inclusion for specific children	Possible difficulty in accessing some activities, including enrichment, trips out of school and residential	Liaise with parents and external agencies in order to develop individual protocols where necessary	Review activities as and when necessary

#### **Actions previously completed:**

- Signage to the school office from staff car park has been improved
- Lighting has been improved throughout the school
- Step edges are demarcated with a colour contrast and reviewed on a regular basis
- All Steps have a handrail in a contrasting colour
- Accessible toilets have been created at the Y6 end of the school
- Walk ways are uncluttered and demarcated to allow free movement
- Corridors are double width in the main
- I-pads further laptops and plasma screens purchased to make ICT more accessible
- Coloured films and books with coloured pages available
- Variety of different writing implements available to meet needs of all pupils
- Visual fire alarm in music room
- Procedures in place for disabled parents and pupils to access staff car park
- Ramp access to the school hall where needed
- Patio area by pupil entrance surface relayed to allow more even surface
- ICT suite repurposed and all computing equipment now mobile allowing for more accessibility.

Updated policy and plan developed September 2021

Next review September 2022