



St Edward's Catholic First School
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Accessibility Plan – 2014 to 2017

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1. 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 must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At St Edward's First School the Plan will form part of the Curriculum committee.

At St. Edward's 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.

- 1) The St. Edward's First School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by RBWM, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date.
- 2) The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will be published on the school website.
- 3) St. Edward's 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.
- 4) The St. Edward's School 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 disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are 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 and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

- 5) The St. Edward's School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.
- 6) 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.
- 7) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - Curriculum Policy
 - Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy
 - Equality Plan
 - School Prospectus
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Special Educational Needs Policy
 - Staff Development Policy
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
- 11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Curriculum Committee
- 12) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.
- 13) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

2. Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are to;

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability,
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils,

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

3. Current good practice

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening.

Physical Environment

Disabled pupils participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical needs; There are very few parts of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment, following the building redevelopment in 2013.

Curriculum

There are areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Other issues affect the participation of disabled pupils, for example: bullying, peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten.

Information

Different forms of communication can be made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff.

4. Access Audit

The school consists of two buildings, one is an older single storey building with several doors and interconnecting classrooms. The second is a two storey building with wide corridors and a single access points from outside. KS1 areas are all on the ground floor and offer wide door access to all rooms. The hall is on the ground floor and is accessible to all. KS2 are in the two storey building which has a lift at the Middle school end. This lift can accommodate a large wheelchair which is maintained on a regular basis by the Middle School. School staff are trained in the operation of the lift when relevant. Training is reviewed annually.

On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes a dedicated disabled parking bay. All entrances to the school are either flat or ramped and most have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby which is not fully accessible to wheelchair users. Entry to the school in these circumstances would have to be through the courtyard. There are disabled toilet facilities available, one in the school Reception area one on the upstairs KS2 corridor. All these are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked, this includes refuge areas for wheelchair users.

5. Management, coordination and implementation

- We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
- The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the RBWM and the Diocese.

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 to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.**

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
<u>SHORT TERM</u>	To liaise with Nursery providers to review potential intake for Sept 14	To identify pupils who may need additional to or different from provision for Sept 14 Intake	Sept 2015/2016	HT EYFS teacher	Procedures/equipment/ ideas set in place by Sept 2014.
	To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing 2014/15	HT All subject leaders	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
	To establish close liaison with parents	To ensure collaboration and sharing between school and families.	Ongoing throughout 2014/15.	HT All Teachers	Clear collaborative working approach
	To establish close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with on going health needs. Eg Children with severe asthma, epilepsy or mobility issues.	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel	Ongoing throughout 2014/15.	HT TAs Outside agencies	Clear collaborative working approach

	To ensure full access to the curriculum for all children	<p>Outside Play visits; Employment of specialist advisory teachers; CPD for staff and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A differentiated curriculum with alternatives offered. • The use of P levels to assist in developing learning opportunities for children and also in assessing progress in different subjects • A range of support staff including trained teaching assistants • Multimedia activities to support most curriculum areas • Use of interactive ICT equipment • Specific equipment sourced from occupational therapy 	Ongoing	<p>All Teachers</p> <p>SENCO</p> <p>Special school</p> <p>Ed Psych</p> <p>Classroom practice.</p> <p>.</p>	ASD children supported and accessing curriculum
<u>MEDIUM TERM</u>	To finely review attainment of all SEN pupils.	<p>SENCO/Class teacher meetings/Pupil progress Scrutiny of assessment system</p> <p>Regular liaison with parents</p>	Termly	<p>Class teachers</p> <p>SENCO</p>	<p>Progress made towards IEP targets</p> <p>Provision mapping shows clear steps and progress made</p>
	To monitor attainment of Able, G & T pupils	<p>Policy and Able G&T list to be updated</p> <p>Able G&T booster</p>	Ongoing Annually	<p>Able G&T co-ordinator</p> <p>Class teachers</p>	Able G&T children making proportionate progress.

		groups/activities Monitor Able G&T list			Achieving above average results
	To promote the involvement of disabled students in classroom discussions/activities To take account of variety of learning styles when teaching	<p>Within the Curriculum, the school aims to provide full access to all aspects of the curriculum by providing (where appropriate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair access <input type="checkbox"/> Screen magnifier software for the visually impaired <input type="checkbox"/> Features such as sticky keys and filter keys to aid disabled users in using a keyboard <input type="checkbox"/> Elklan training for relevant staff <input type="checkbox"/> Giving alternatives to enable disabled pupils to participate successfully in lessons <input type="checkbox"/> Creating positive images of disability within the school so that pupils grow into adults who have some understanding of the needs of disabled people. 	Ongoing	<p>Whole school approach</p> <p>Variety of learning styles and multi-sensory activities evident in planning and in the classrooms.</p>	Ensuring that the needs of all disabled pupils, parents and staff are represented within the school.
<u>LONG TERM</u>	To evaluate and review the above short and long term	See above	Annually	SMT, Core curriculum managers	All children making good progress.

	targets annually			Governors	
	To deliver findings to the Governing Body	Premises and Curriculum Governors meetings	Annually Termly SEN Governor / SENCO	SENCO SMT/SEN/SBM Governor	Governors fully informed about SEN provision and progress

Aim 2**To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.**

<u>SHORT TERM</u>	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	Improve physical environment of school environment	The school will take account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors 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, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SMT	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
	Ensure visually stimulating environment for all children	Colourful, lively displays in classrooms and inviting role play areas.	Ongoing	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Lively and inviting environment maintained.
	Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	<input type="checkbox"/> Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of EHCP process <input type="checkbox"/> Undertake confidential survey of staff and governors to ascertain access needs and make sure they are met in the school and meetings etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Include questions in the	With immediate effect, to be constantly reviewed	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Enabling needs to be met where possible.

		confidential pupil information questionnaire about parents/carers' access needs and ensure they are met in all cases.			
	Improve physical environment of school	The school will take account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors 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, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SMT SBM	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
<u>Medium Term</u>	To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent interviews, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual protocols where needed.	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Head Teacher SBM Occupational health	To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.
	Ensuring disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilise disabled parking spaces for disabled to drop off & collect children <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange interpreters from the RNID/RNIB to communicate with deaf/blind parents <input type="checkbox"/> offer a telephone call to explain letters home for	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Whole school team With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education

		<p>some parents who need this</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents</p>			
<u>LONG TERM</u>	Continue to develop playgrounds and facilities.	Look for funding opportunities	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Inclusive child-friendly play areas.
	To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe as possible.	<p>Communication with parents via safety messages /letters/walk to school week</p> <p>Bikeability for Year 4 children</p>	Ongoing	PSHE Co-ordinator SMT	No accidents

Aim 3

To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of the delivery of information to disabled parents and pupils.

	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Success Criteria</u>
<u>SHORT TERM</u>	To ensure all children with ASD have access to the curriculum	Regular parental communication Individualised multi-sensory teaching strategies used for ASD children.	Ongoing	All staff to be aware	ASD children able to access curriculum.
<u>MEDIUM TERM</u>	To review children's records ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities	Information collected about new children. <input type="checkbox"/> Records passed up to each class teacher. <input type="checkbox"/> End of year class teacher meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Annual reviews <input type="checkbox"/> IEP meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Medical forms updated annually for all children <input type="checkbox"/> Personal health plans <input type="checkbox"/> Significant health problems –children's photos displayed on staffroom notice board / info kept in separate file in staffroom	Annually	Class teachers SNAs Outside agencies SMT Office staff	Each teacher/staff member aware of disabilities of children in their classes

<u>LONG TERM</u>	In school record system to be reviewed and improved where necessary. (Records on Sims/ network/ protected)	Record keeping system to be reviewed.	Continual review and improvement	Assessment Co-ordinator/SMT Admin Staff	Effective communication of information about disabilities throughout school.
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Reviewed:	Headteacher	February 2015
Approved:	Curriculum	3rd March 2015
Ratified:	Governing Body	18th March 2015
Review frequency	Every three years	