

St. Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School Access Audit and Accessibility Plan 2024-25

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1. Statement of Intent

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 Catholic Primary and Nursery School the Plan will be monitored by the Head teacher and Senior Leadership team and evaluated by both Governors’ committees. The current Plan will be attached to this document.

At St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery 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.

1) The St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon current information about pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. 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 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.

3) St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery 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 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 Catholic Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be maintained and 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, textbooks 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 Catholic Primary and Nursery School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum, medical need and information.

6) Whole school training will recognise the need to continue to raise 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
- School Brochure
- School Improvement Plan

- Special Educational Needs Policy

8) The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the access 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 on-going 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 Buildings and Finance Committee and School Effectiveness 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
- To Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- To improve the delivery of written information to pupils
- To fully meet the medical needs of children in our care

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

3.Current good practice

We aim to ask about any SEND, additional or medical needs in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information regularly and have an open door policy to enable parents to share views or concerns, we also have parents' evenings twice a year.

Physical Environment

ALL pupils have the opportunity to 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. All children can access the parts of the school that they need to with little or no adult assistance.

Curriculum

Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment. Staff are very aware of how they can adapt the curriculum or activity to allow all children to take part and the school do their utmost to provide resources and equipment to allow them to do so. Other issues affecting the participation of pupils, for

example medical need are addressed through the relevant policies; administration of medicines, the provision of intimate care etc.

Information

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

4. Access Audit

The school is a two storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. All main entrances along with the external doors in the reception classroom are on one level and accessible to wheelchair users. There has been an internal ramp installed in the main corridor for easy wheelchair access.

Internal doors are wheelchair accessible and a disabled toilet and shower facilities are available. These are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord.

A lift has been installed for easy wheelchair access to the KS2 classrooms.

Main parking for parents is on the road. Access to the staff car park with ready access to the main entrance of the school could be facilitated if required. The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

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 Local Authority and Diocese.

6.St Edward’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School Action Plan

	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe	Goals Achieved
Curriculum /General	Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of Individual learning path process. Undertake confidential survey of staff and governors to ascertain access needs and make sure they are met in the school and meetings etc. Consideration to be given at admission about parents/carers' access needs. Enabling needs to be met where possible.	Pupil needs are supported. Achievements raised/enhanced. Value added. Suitability of present situation improved.	With immediate effect, to be constantly reviewed	

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Curriculum Access	Provide sufficient ICT equipment for pupils who need them to access curriculum fully.	To look at resources we have available and assign to individuals if available, purchase word processing equipment if not.	Better use of facilities as a teaching resource.	End of Autumn term 2017	
Curriculum Access	Review TA/ support staff structure and provision	SMT to consider options of best use. Staff to discuss	Pupil needs are suitably/adequately met. Teaching staff feel supported, too.	Ongoing	
Curriculum Access	To ensure that ASD children are fully supported to access curriculum	Training to be taken by staff involved with children PECs ASD awareness.	Staff awareness and knowledge increased in strategies and approaches to support.	Ongoing	
Information	To review children's records ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities	Information Collected about new children. Records passed up to each class teacher. End of year	All staff are fully aware of all children they may have contact with	Ongoing	

		<p>class teacher</p> <p>Annual reviews</p> <p>Learning Path meetings</p> <p>Medical forms updated as needed for all children</p> <p>Personal health care plans</p>			
Physical Environment	A disabled parking space to be maintained on car park.	To be used appropriately at all times.	To ensure that parents of disabled children and disabled visitors to school can park in a location where access to school is easy and safe.		
Physical Environment	To maintain the lift.	Engineers to inspect and service regularly.	To ensure that the lift is kept in a safe working order.		
Physical Environment	A disabled access minibus has been purchased.	Costing and funding has been accomplished.	To enable children with need to use the mini bus.		
Medical Need	To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent discussions, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and	For medical needs to be fully met	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	

		establish individual plans where needed.			
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