



**ST MARY'S**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Accessibility Plan

DATE APPROVED BY SMNG	April 2014		
REVIEW DATE Every 3 years	Spring 2017		
SIGNED HEAD TEACHER	<i>Jane Dunton</i>	DATE	1/4/14
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY	<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE	1/4/14



## Introduction

It is a fundamental part of our Christian foundation and ethos that everyone in our school should be treated with respect and dignity, in keeping with the Christian belief that God made all people equally valuable and in His image. Consequently we are committed to meeting all requirements to make our school as accessible as possible.

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education, these requirements have been replicated in the Equality Act 2010. The Governing Body has three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA:

- a. not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability;
- b. to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so they are not at a substantial disadvantage;
- c. to draw up plans to show how, over time, we will increase access to education.

This policy sets out the proposals of St Mary's Church of England School to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties of the DDA by:

- a. increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum;
- b. improving the physical environment of the school to enable fuller usage by disabled pupils;
- c. improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils using appropriate means.

## What defines a disability?

A pupil has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

## What defines 'reasonable adjustments'?

In determining what is reasonable the school will have regard to:

- a. health and safety requirements
- b. The practicality of making reasonable adjustments
- c. The interests of other pupils
- d. The costs of any particular alteration to the premises, staffing arrangements, or special equipment required
- e. The extent to which aids and services will be provided via a Statement of Educational Needs statement, or by provision paid for outside the school's resources

St Mary's Church of England School plans, over time, to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school to the extent it is reasonably able to do so. The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant actions to:

- Improve 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.
- 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. This covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits. It also covers the provision of specialist **aids and equipment**, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. The information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

The Headteacher and Inclusion Teacher will meet at the start of each academic year (or more often if required) to consider the needs of the pupils with regard to these three areas. Staff insets will address the need for ongoing awareness raising and training for staff and governors in the matter of disability discrimination and the need to inform attitudes on this matter.

Attached to this document as appendices are Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis, as determined by the Governing Body. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following policies, strategies and documents:

- Curriculum
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Staff Development
- Health & Safety (including off-site safety)
- Inclusion
- Special Needs
- Behaviour Management
- School Improvement Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- School Brochure and Mission Statement
- Teaching and Learning File

As applicable policies are reviewed, a section relating to access will be added to that on Equality and Diversity. [The terms of reference for all governors' committees will contain an item on "having regard to matters relating to Access".

The School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.

The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Resources and School Improvement Committees of the Governors.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

This plan has been agreed by the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

**Accessibility Plan 2014-2015**

**Appendix 1: Improving the Physical Access at St Mary's Church of England School**

St Mary's Church of England School is a brand new school. Accessibility is being carefully considered in its design and build. An Access Audit will be carried and items noted in plans as follows.

Access Report Ref.	Item	Activity	Timescale	Estimated Cost
			By (DATE)	£

**Appendix 2: Improving the Curriculum Access at St Mary's Church of England School**

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum	Undertake an audit of staff training requirements	All teachers are able to more fully meet the requirements of disabled children's needs with regards to accessing the curriculum	Sept 2014	Increase in access to the curriculum
Training for teachers on differentiating the curriculum	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations.	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life-preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available.	Sept 2014	Increase in access to all school activities for all disabled pupils
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	Review all out-of-school provision to ensure compliance with legislation	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements	Sept 2014	Increase in access to the Early Years and National Curriculum
Classrooms are optimally 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	Lessons start on time without the need to make adjustments to accommodate the needs of individual pupils	Sept 2014	
Training for Awareness Raising of Disability Issues	Provide training for governors, staff, pupils and parents Discuss perception of	Whole school community aware of issues relating to Access	Sept 2014	Society will benefit by a more inclusive school and social environment

	issues with staff to determine the current status of school			
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**Appendix 3: Improving the Delivery of Written Information at St Mary's Church of England School**

TARGET	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMEFRAME	ACHIEVEMENT
Availability of written material in alternative formats	The school will make itself aware of the services available through the key partners such as the LDBS for converting written information into alternative formats.	The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes	As and when	Delivery of information to disabled pupils improved
Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it	All school information available for all	As and when	Delivery of school information to parents and the local community improved
Review documentation with a view of ensuring accessibility for pupils with visual impairment	Get advice from HVSS on alternative formats and use of IT software to produce customized materials.	All school information available for all	As and when	Delivery of school information to pupils & parents with visual difficulties improved.
Raise the awareness of adults working at and for the school on the importance of good communications systems.	Arrange training courses.	Awareness of target group raised	As and when	School is more effective in meeting the needs of pupils.

