

St Stephen's C.E Primary School



Accessibility Policy

Approved by: FGB

Date: March 2021

Next review due by: March 2024



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

***This Policy relates to the aims and values of the school
which are embedded in the strong Christian ethos of St. Stephen's***

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to show how St Stephen's School intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils, parents and carers, staff and visitors to the school.

Legal Background

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".

Definition of Disability

According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- He or she has a physical or mental impairment, **and**
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Rationale

The key duties on schools are:-

- *Not to treat disabled students less favourably for a reason related to their disability*
- *To make reasonable adjustments for disabled students, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage*
- *Plan to increase access for disabled students*

Contextual Information

St Stephen's School is a Victorian building over 3 floors. There is also a single storey nursery building. The buildings have disabled facilities and toilets. Wheelchair access is available on the ground floor. The other floors are not at present accessible to wheel chair users. The majority of the outdoors areas are accessible to wheel chair users.

Areas of planning responsibilities

- **Increasing access for disabled pupils to the school curriculum** (this includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits)
- **Improving access to the physical environment of the school** (this includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education)
- **Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils** (this will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable time frame)

Accessibility Plan 2021 – 2024				
Equality and Inclusion				
Target	Strategies	Responsibility	Success Criteria	Time Frame
To ensure that the Accessibility Plan is an annual agenda item at Children and Families Committee and Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings.	Clerk to Governors to add to list for FGB meetings.	Governors	Adherence to legislation.	Annually
To improve staff awareness of disability issues.	Review staff training needs. Provide training for members of the school community as appropriate. Audit parents/carers re personal disability issues.	HT/DH – role as SENDCo	Whole-school community aware of issues.	Yearly basis September 2021 /22 September 2022/23 September 2023/24
To continue to train staff to enable them to meet the needs of children with a range of SEND	Inclusion Manager to provide training for staff as needed.	HT/DH – role as SENDCo	Staff continually developing their skills to help pupils access the curriculum based on need.	Yearly basis September 2021/22 September 2022/23 September 2023/24

Accessibility Plan 2021/2024		Physical Environment		
To continue to maintain outside areas so they are accessible to all.	Premises officer to regularly audit the outside area to ensure signs and painted steps are maintained for those with visual impairments and to ensure the playground is safe for wheelchair users when relevant.	Premises Officer	School playground safe and accessible for all.	On-going
Accessibility Plan 2021/2024		Curriculum		
To provide specialist equipment to promote participation in learning by all pupils.	Assess the needs of the children in each class and provide equipment as needed. eg. Special pencil grips, headphones, writing slopes etc.	DH (SENDCo) /HT	Pupils will develop independent learning skills.	Yearly basis September 2021/22 September 2022/23 September 2023/24
To ensure that all children are able to access, as far as is safe to do so, all out of school activities. eg. clubs, trips, residential visits etc.	To Risk assess all activities and provide support where possible to meet the needs of the child.	Inclusion Manager / HT	Pupils participating in all activities whenever possible. (to re-assess during Covid pandemic)	On-going As required
Accessibility Plan Written 2021/2024		Other Information		
To provide alternative formats for school information, offering large print copies for those with visual impairment	Be prepared to supply additional support in accessing any information	HT / Office staff	All parents accessing school information	On- going

To ensure that parents who are unable to attend school, because of a disability, can access parents' evenings	Staff to hold parents' evenings by phone, Zoom or send home written information	HT / Office staff	Parents are informed of pupil's progress	As relevant
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Monitoring and Review

This plan will be reviewed annually by the governing body.