

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2016- 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 was extended to include education by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognise the following duties that this places upon them;

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage
- To plan to make reasonable adjustments to the school buildings, so that there is an increased access to education for disabled pupils and to make the school buildings more accessible for disabled people.

The planning duties of the DDA make three requirements of the Governing body:

- To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum
- To improve the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services
- To improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided for pupils who are not disabled in a format appropriate to their needs.

We are required to resource, implement and review our accessibility plan as necessary. This plan will be monitored and evaluated by the Extended Services Committee of the governing body. The plan attached sets out the Governors' proposals for increasing access to education for disabled pupils.

DISABILITY

The DDA definition of disability:

'A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out day to day activities'

St Mary's single equality policy is to ensure that there is no discrimination against any subgroup within its community, be it because of sex, religion, race, colour or disability. With this in mind the school has put in place policies and procedures so that disabled people are not treated less favourably in the service, education or support they receive than people without a disability.

ACCESS TO THIS PLAN:

This plan will be made available upon request to any current parent or prospective parent who requests it. We will also hand this plan to any parent of a disabled child who makes an enquiry about a place for their child at the school. This plan will also be made available to any member of staff or applicant for a post at the school who requests it.

This plan will be shared with Senior Leadership and will inform relevant aspects of the Premises Plan.

This plan will be made available to Ofsted inspectors upon request.

1. St Mary's School Accessibility Plan has been drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority and Diocese, and in conjunction with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school and will advise other school planning documents.

The Accessibility Plan will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes, and provide a projected plan for the four year period ahead of the next review date. This plan was updated in Autumn 2016 and reflects statutory requirements for the setting of Equality Objectives.

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 LA and the Diocese 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. We are 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.

At St Mary's we aim to honour and fulfil The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This guidance refers directly to the following; Article 28: Every child has the right to an education

4. The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given time frame and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan will contain 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 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 school 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 time frame;
- 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 within a reasonable time frame;
- 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 timeframe.

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

- Curriculum Policy
- Equality Objectives
- Single Equality Policy
- Staff Development Policy
- Health & Safety Policy (including off-site safety)
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Special Educational Needs Report
- Behaviour Management Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Asset Management Plan / Suitability Survey
- School Prospectus and Vision Statement

8. The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which was originally undertaken by the Local Authority and subsequently updated by the school and 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 School Prospectus will make reference to this Accessibility Plan.

11. The School's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan.

12. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

13. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Behaviour & Safety Committee.

14. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority and the Diocese of Shrewsbury in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan and will adopt in principle the LA Accessibility Strategy.

15. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010