



## **St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary school**

### **Accessibility Policy**

**Status: Approved**

**Governing Committee: Resources**

**Authors: IW / JC / C-CC**

**Approved: January 2015**

St Mary's is a Catholic primary school where every child will be encouraged to develop as a unique individual. The Catholic faith underpins all aspects of the child's education. We will strive to be a positive force in the life of the church by creating a community where the principles of the Gospel are evident.

## **Why do we have an Accessibility Plan?**

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. Mary’s RC Primary School the Plan will form part of the Resources Committee. It will form part of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors’ committee. See Appendix to this document for the current Accessibility Plan.

At St. Mary’s RC Primary School we aim to provide a Christian environment in which the talents and abilities of the individual child are recognised and developed.. In the words of our Mission Statement “*Every child will be encouraged to develop as a whole person academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially*”. All of our 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.

## **What will the Accessibility plan do?**

1. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Diversity and Community Cohesion Policy and also the SEND Policy, both of which can be accessed via our website.
- 2, St. Mary’s RC Primary 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 educational, 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.
3. The St.Mary’s RC Primary 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 prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. This encompasses 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 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.

4. Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising awareness of equality issues for staff and governors to comply fully with the Equality Act 2010.

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

- Behaviour Policy,
- Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion Policy
- Health & Safety Policy,
- SEND Policy
- School Improvement

6. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed

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

8. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Resources Committee and reported to the Full Governing Body

9. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority and the Diocese in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

Appendix

**St Mary's RC Primary School Accessibility Plan**

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| <b>Actions already taken to increase accessibility</b>   |
| Ramp provided for access to mobile classroom<br>Equipment provided for hearing impairment<br>Staff training in diabetes management<br>Staff training in ASD<br>Staff training in Dyslexia and Precision Teaching<br>Dyscalculia training<br>ELSA training<br>Ongoing liaison with Speech and Language Team, Behaviour Support Team, SEND and Educational Psychologist<br>Governor training for SEN in Twenty First Century<br>Senco to attend local Chippenham meetings re: SEN changes etc. |
| <b>Actions to be taken by July 2015</b>  |
| Epi Pen training<br>Work with Occupational Therapy Team re: admitting child with cerebral palsy<br>Ongoing liaison with Speech and Language Team, Behaviour Support Team, SEND and Educational Psychologist<br>Liaison with secondary schools re: Y6 transfer<br>Senco to attend local Chippenham meetings re: SEN changes etc.  |
| <b>Actions to be taken by July 2017</b>  |
| Continue advice on 'visual' friendliness of school<br>Ongoing liaison with hearing impairment team<br>Continued assessment for wheelchair accessibility<br>Ongoing liaison with Speech and Language Team, Behaviour Support Team, SEND and Educational Psychologist<br>Senco to attend local Chippenham meetings re: SEN changes etc.  |