

# **St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan – 2016 to 2019**

**1. Vision Statement**

**2. Aims and Objectives**

**3. Current good practice**

❖ Physical Environment

❖ Curriculum

❖ Information

**4. Access Audit**

**5. Management, coordination and implementation**

**6. Action Plan**

## 1. Vision Statement:

### **St. Dunstan's Catholic School Mission Statement**

Our school is distinguished by the quality of care provided by a truly successful partnership between home, school and parish in the grounding of the faith. This will prepare pupils to live as responsible citizens.

St Dunstan's School is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children, staff and visitors and promoting a climate where children and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.

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 Governors. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School the Plan will form part of the Finance and Resources committee and will be monitored by the head teacher. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At St Dunstan's Catholic Primary 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 Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and consultations with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school. Other, outside agencies and specialists have also been consulted. 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 Dunstan's Catholic 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 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 Dunstan's Catholic 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, 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 Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

6) Whole school training will recognize the need to continue raising 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:

- ❖ Asset Management Plan
- ❖ Behaviour Management Policy
- ❖ Curriculum Policy
- ❖ Critical Incident Support Plan
- ❖ Equal Opportunities Policy
- ❖ Health & Safety Policy
- ❖ Equality Plan
- ❖ School Prospectus
- ❖ School Improvement Plan
- ❖ Special Educational Needs Policy
- ❖ Staff Development Policy

8) The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit 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 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 Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Resources 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.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

### **Our Aims are:**

- ❖ **Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability,**
- ❖ **Improve and maintain access to the physical environment**
- ❖ **Improve the delivery of written information to pupils,**

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

## **3. Current good practice**

We aim to ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the school, we collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, or in conjunction with a letter home about a parents' evening.

### **Physical Environment**

Disabled pupils 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 need. There are no parts of the school to which disabled pupils have limited or no access at the moment, following the building redevelopment in 2013.

There is a disabled shower in the gents toilets. There are two disabled toilets; one on the ground floor for both adults and children and one on the first floor. There is also a lift from the ground floor to the first floor.

### **Curriculum**

There are no areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment. In some cases modifications are made so that children with a physical impairment can participate safely.

### **Information**

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all disabled pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available for disabled pupils, parents and staff such as school council, parent questionnaire, conversations with parents, conversations with teaching assistants, parent link-worker etc.

## **4. Access Audit**

The school is a two storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. KS1 areas are all on the ground floor with wide door access to all rooms. The hall is on the ground floor and is accessible to all. There is a lift which can accommodate a large wheelchair which is maintained on a regular basis through a service agreement (from next year) with VFM. Staff are trained in the operation of the lift when relevant. Training is reviewed annually.

On-site car parking for staff and visitor includes one dedicated disabled parking bay. All entrances to the school (except for the hall) are either flat or ramped and all have wide doors fitted. The main entrance features a secure lobby and has been fitted with a low reception hatch, this being fully accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities available, one downstairs outside the Hall and one on the upstairs KS2 corridor. All these are fitted with a handrail and a pull emergency cord.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. There is a refuge area (class 14) for wheelchair users.

## **5. Management, coordination and implementation**

- ❖ We will consult with outside agencies for advice when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.
  
- ❖ The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the Local Authority and Diocese.

