St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Accessibility Plan

THE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Learning and growing together in God's love

Accessibility Plan

Policy Consultation & Review

The policy is provided to all staff and should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- SEND Policy
- SEND Information Report

At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all our pupils and staff and all those who are part of our school community or use our school facilities. This includes those who are disabled. We follow the Catholic Bishop's Conference Policy on Diversity and Equality which states that we have a duty of witness to the Gospel by striving always to be inclusive, respectful of the human dignity of all and in tune with the spirit as well as the letter of the law as well as to safeguard the Catholic ethos and identity of St Francis'.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and can participate fully in school life.

We aim to address the needs of all our children, parents, staff and the wider community.

We will work with all outside agencies who can advise staff and support pupils within school.

The Governing Body must fulfil three key duties towards disabled pupils as outlined in the SEN and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (part 4)

- 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 increase access to education for disabled pupils.

St Francis' school ground floor is conducive to ease of access for the disabled.

The construction of a lift at the time of amalgamation in 2013 ensured access for all to the school hall. The first floor is accessed by one of two staircases. The school has investigated making the first floor more accessible to pupils. Currently, classrooms are re-allocated every academic year according to the needs and abilities of individual children in order to reduce or eliminate the need to use first floor facilities.

This plan sets out further proposals of the school to increase access to education or usage for all disabled pupils or persons in the three areas required in the DDA namely:

- 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 of information to disabled pupils in an appropriate format

The school will continue to take into account the needs of pupils, staff and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises.
It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary. The following are the areas for further development and how the school will address them.

1) Increasing the extent to which pupils can participate in the school curriculum:

- Staff to be aware of pupils' individual needs
- Ensure relevant pupils can access curriculum by employing and using trained staff
- Effective use of equipment to promote learning where appropriate
- Curriculum planning to include provision for pupils with disability
- Lessons planned so as to address a variety of learning styles and differentiated appropriately
- Monitoring of individual pupils and groups of pupils to ensure significant progress is made
- School visits and events are made accessible to all pupils regardless of attainment or impairment

2) A commitment to improving the physical environment of the school:

- Regular review of access to all areas of the school site and building
- Clear signage in and around school to help navigation around school

3) Improving the delivery of information in writing in an appropriate format.

- Provide suitably enlarged, clear print/appropriately coloured paper for pupils with visual impairment/conditions (ongoing).
- Provide information in clear print in newsletters, website etc. for parents/carers, visitors and staff on request
- The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and school office staff will support and help parents/carers to access information (including via the internet) and complete forms for parents/carers where appropriate.
- Use of Family Support Worker to help parents/carers to access information (including via the internet), complete forms etc.

This policy is available in hardcopy from the school office on request.
If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact the School Office on 01603 441484 and we will do our best to help.