



**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School,
Wingate**

Accessibility Policy

"You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky."

Philippians 2:45

Date of implementation: September 2025

Date of Annual review: September 2027

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Catholic Life and Mission Policy

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wingate Accessibility Plan.

1. **Vision Statement**
2. **Aims and Objectives**
3. **Current good practice**
 - Physical Environment
 - Curriculum
 - Information
4. Access Audit
5. Management, coordination and implementation
6. 6. Action Plan

1. **Vision Statement:**

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 Catholic Primary School the Plan will form part of the Buildings and Grounds section of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the Head Teacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee. The current Plan will be appended to this document.

At St. Mary'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.

St. Mary'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.

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.

St. Mary'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.

St. Mary'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.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

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.

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

- Asset Management Plan
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality Plan
- School Prospectus
- School Development Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Handbook

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.

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.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored by the Local Governing Committee.

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

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

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, parents & visitors

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 will collect information on disability as part of a survey of parents' views, during the annual data collection process and 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 needs. The school building is single storey throughout. There is level access to it from the outside. All other areas are accessible independently for disabled pupils who use wheelchairs or movement aids.

The outdoor area has steps down to the main playground. These steps have a low handrail to support pupils with limited mobility and have alternative coloured nosings for the visually impaired. This needs to be looked at to be made more accessible if the need arises.

Curriculum

There can be areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils may have limited or no access. Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment, science and technology for pupils with a visual impairment, humanities for pupils with learning difficulties. Other issues can affect the participation of disabled pupils, for example: peer relationships, policies on the administration of medicines, the provision of intimate/personal care, the presence or lack of role models or images of disabled people, in effect, all the school's policies and procedures, written and unwritten.

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.

4. Access Audit

The main part of the building is all on one level. This is accessed by a level path to the main entrance.

One of the classrooms' fire door has one step down but the main entrance exit is very nearby. The main playground is only accessible by steps from the classrooms but is level if approached from the main entrance via a gate.

There are no parking bays marked on the school site or in the parking area by the school.

The front entrance to the school is accessed by a level path. The main entrance features a small secure lobby. There is one accessible toilet in our school building for adults and children.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked. Personal Evacuation plans will be produced for children/ adults with specific physical requirements to enable them to leave the building in an emergency. Information at the front entrance instructs disabled visitors to ask for help to gain access/ evacuation.

5. Management, coordination and implementation

We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with relevant agencies.

6. Action Plan

Aim 1

To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.

Our key objective is to reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, with a disability.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	To liaise with LA regarding children with specific needs for each September intake.	To identify pupils who may need additional/ alternative provision for each intake.	Sept /Jan / Apr/ Sept	HT EYFS teacher	Procedures/equipment /ideas set in place in the term prior to intake.
	To review all statutory policies to ensure that they reflect inclusive practice and procedure	To comply with the Equality Act 2010	Ongoing	HT All subject leaders	All policies clearly reflect inclusive practice and procedure
	To establish close liaison with parents	To ensure collaboration and sharing between school and families.	Ongoing and in response to need	HT All Teachers	Clear collaborative working approach
	To establish close liaison with outside agencies for pupils with on-going health needs. E.g. Children with severe asthma, or mobility issues.	To ensure collaboration between all key personnel	Ongoing	HT TAs Outside agencies	Clear collaborative working approach
	To ensure full access to the curriculum for all children.	Educational Visits; Employment of specialist advisory teachers; CPD for staff and:	Ongoing	Teachers	Advice taken and strategies evident in Classroom practice.

SHORT TERM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A differentiated curriculum with alternatives offered. • The use of P levels to assist in developing learning opportunities for children and also in assessing progress in different subjects • A range of support staff including trained teaching assistants • Multimedia activities to support most curriculum areas • Use of interactive ICT equipment • Specific equipment sourced from occupational therapy 		SENCO School Ed Psych CAHMS EWEL Counsellor ASD team	ASD children supported and accessing curriculum.
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Tasks / Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
To finely review attainment of all SEND pupils.	SENCO/Class teacher meetings/Pupil progress Scrutiny of assessment system Regular parental liaison	Termly	Class teachers SENCO	Progress made towards SEN Support plans & Education Health Plan targets Provision mapping shows clear steps and progress made

	To monitor attainment of greater depth	Greater depth pupils to be challenged and experience booster sessions	Ongoing Annually	Class teachers Subject leaders	Are greater depth pupils making good progress. Achieving above average results
	To promote the involvement of disabled students in classroom discussions/activities To take account of variety of learning styles when teaching	Within the Curriculum, the school aims to provide full access to all aspects of the curriculum by providing (where appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchair access • Screen magnifier software for the visually impaired 	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Variety of learning styles and multi-sensory activities evident in planning and in the classrooms. Ensuring that the needs of all disabled pupils, parents and staff are represented within the school.

	Tasks / Targets		Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
MEDIUM TERM			Ongoing	Whole school approach	Variety of learning styles and multi-sensory activities evident in planning and in the classrooms. Ensuring that the needs of all disabled pupils, parents and staff are represented within the school.

LONG TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	To evaluate and review the above short and long term targets annually	See above	Annually	SMT, Core curriculum coordinators Governors	All children making good progress.
	To deliver findings to the Governing Body	Finance and Premises and Curriculum Governors meetings	Annually Termly SEN Governor / SENCO meetings	SENCO SMT/SEN Governor	Governors fully informed about SEN provision and progress

Aim 2 : To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services.

SHORT TERM	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	Improve physical environment of school environment	The school will take 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, such as improved access, lighting, and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.	Ongoing	SLT	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
	Ensure visually stimulating environment for all children	Colourful, lively displays in classrooms and inviting role play areas.	Ongoing	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Lively and inviting environment maintained.

Ensuring all with a disability are able to be involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of Education Health Plan process • Undertake confidential survey of staff and governors to ascertain access needs and make sure they are met in the school and meetings etc. • Include questions in the confidential pupil information questionnaire about parents/carers' access needs and ensure they are met in all events. 	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Teaching and non-teaching staff	Enabling needs to be met where possible.
To ensure that the medical needs of all pupils are met fully within the capability of the school.	To conduct parent interviews, liaise with external agencies, identifying training needs and establish individual protocols where needed.	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Head Teacher Occupational health	

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	Ensuring disabled parents have every opportunity to be involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange interpreters from the RNID to communicate with deaf parents • Offer a telephone call to explain letters home for some parents who need this • Adopt a more proactive approach to identifying the access requirements of disabled parents 	With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	Whole school team With immediate effect to be constantly reviewed	To ensure that disabled parents are not discriminated against and are encouraged to take interest and be involved in their child's education

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
MEDIUM TERM	To improve community links	School to continue to have strong links with BCCET and those in the wider Durham LA.	Ongoing	SLT	Improved awareness of disabilities/the wider community of Thornley & Wheatley Hill, and the world and their needs
		Build strong links with the wider community.	Ongoing	All staff	Improved community cohesion

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
LONG TERM	Continue to develop playgrounds and facilities. To ensure driveway, roads, paths around school are as safe as possible.	Look for funding opportunities	Ongoing	Whole school approach	Inclusive child-friendly play areas.
		Communication with parents via safety messages /letters/walk to school week Daily check of yard and site perimeter paths Monthly 'Walkaround' whole site	Ongoing Ongoing	RSHE Coordinator SLT Caretaker	No accidents
		Develop disabled parking spaces for disabled to drop off & collect children	Ongoing	CT	

Aim 3: To improve the delivery of information to disabled pupils and parents.

	Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
SHORT TERM	To ensure all children with ASD have access to the curriculum	Regular parental communication Individualised multi-sensory teaching strategies used for ASD children.	Ongoing	All staff to be aware	ASD children able to access curriculum.
	To enable improved access to written information for pupils, parents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Investigate symbol software to support learners with reading difficulties. • • Raising awareness of font size and page layouts will support pupils with visual impairments. • • Auditing the school library to ensure the availability of large font and easy read texts will improve access. • • Auditing signage around the school to ensure that is accessible to all is a valuable exercise. 			
MEDIUM TERM	To review children's records ensuring school's awareness of any disabilities	Information collected about new children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records passed up to each class teacher. • End of year class teacher meetings • Annual reviews • SEN Support Plan meetings • Medical forms updated annually for all children • Personal health plans • Significant health problems – children's plans displayed on staffroom notice board and info kept in separate file in staffroom 	Annually	Class teachers SNAs Outside agencies SLT Office staff	Each teacher/staff member aware of disabilities of children in their classes

LONG TERM		Strategies	Timescale	Responsibilities	Success Criteria
	<p>In school record system to be reviewed and improved where necessary.</p> <p>(Records on Sims/ network/ protected</p>	<p>Record keeping system to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Continual review and improvement</p>	<p>Assessment Co-ordinator/SMT</p>	<p>Effective communication of information about disabilities throughout school.</p>