

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FIRST SCHOOL
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - 2015 to 2018

St Mary's Catholic First School

This document provides a framework on which schools can base their arrangements for Accessibility Plans that are compliant with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

1. St Mary's Catholic First School Accessibility Plan has been drawn based upon information supplied by the Local Authority, and in conjunction with pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school¹ 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 [three / four]² years 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 LA 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.
4. St Mary's Catholic First School's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given timeframe 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 timeframe;
 - 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 timeframe;
 - improve the delivery of **written information** to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information

¹

² Include the Diocese in consultation when applicable.

² Schools may like to align the Accessibility Plan with the frequency of review of the School Equality Objectives

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 (required from April 2012)
 - Single Equality Policy
 - Staff Development Policy
 - Health & Safety Policy (including off-site safety)
 - Special Educational Needs Policy
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Asset Management Plan / Suitability Survey
 - School Brochure / 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 Brochure / 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 Curriculum and the Finance & Premises Committees.
14. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority (*and Diocesan Authority, where appropriate*) in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan and will adopt in principle the "Dorset Accessibility Strategy."
15. The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during Inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 9 principles set out in the Single Equality policy and an initial screening Equality Assessment has been carried out.

This policy was adopted by the Full Governing Body on October 2015

Signed by:  **Chair of Governors**

It will be reviewedOctober 2018

• **St Mary's Accessibility Plan - 2015 to 2018: Improving the Physical Access**

This plan is structured in conjunction with the school's Asset Management Plan, the school Safeguarding File, the School Travel Plan, Health & Safety Audits, the Capital Build Programme and the Suitability Plan. The plan considers the essential work necessary to ensure reasonable adjustments have been made to the fabric of the main buildings to accommodate accessibility issues. As far as possible, work has been undertaken on temporary buildings to facilitate accessibility arrangements. In some cases Health & Safety issues necessitate more prompt action.

LOCATION	ITEM TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	Cost (est.) £
Approach to school	Drop kerbs, traffic calming and pedestrian crossings	Link to Travel Plan for school Drop kerb between footpath & car park installed.	Ongoing – when money allows	
Outside areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pedestrian access ◦ Car parking ◦ Paving Area by bull pen needs new paving ◦ External lighting, ◦ Delivery vehicles/kitchen areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review pedestrian access and provide railing to separate traffic from pedestrians e.g. car park ◦ 2 disabled parking bays provided, need to be clearly signposted at car park entrance in accordance with Dorset Parking Guidelines ◦ 1) Review levels, gradients, cambers and gullies in proximity to all pathways 2) Define footpath edges between Blocks 1 & 2 3) Provide tactile paving at key areas ◦ Ensure lighting to car park & Accessibility Bays is operational, adequate, and consider pollution & local issues. ◦ Link with H&S work to ensure safe and appropriate pedestrian access to delivery area. This will involve separating vehicle and pedestrian routes 	<p>When money allows in order to comply with Dorset Guidelines</p> <p>When money allow, use paviers & edgings recommended by Approved Document Part M</p> <p>Asap</p> <p>Could use dropped kerb area</p>	

LOCATION	ITEM TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	Cost (est.) £
All areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Signage ◦ Contrasting colours of door furniture to aid visibility ◦ Where possible to widen doors ◦ Introduce visibility panels to doors where required ◦ Improve classroom furniture layouts to increase access Security access – when new security system installed this will be done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Consider locating colour and tactile signs ◦ Replace and upgrade on rolling programme ◦ Widen doors where building structure allows ◦ Assess annually depending upon classroom use ◦ Remove all notices & paintings from vision panels ◦ Staff to be aware of mobility and H&S issues ◦ Lower security key pads to enable use by all 	<p>Ongoing – When money allows</p> <p>Asap</p>	No cost
Main Entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Main entrance and foyer ◦ Audibility ◦ Weather shelter – desirable: when main entrance redesigned 	<p>Replace internal security doors to allow wheelchair access</p> <p>Consider moving external door toward road to create more space for wheelchair access and enabling simultaneous use of area by others</p> <p>Consider installation of a loop hearing system for the counter</p> <p>Canopy over main entrance</p>	<p>Ongoing – When money allows.</p>	
Corridors to Main Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Remove trip hazards ◦ Observe fire exit routes ◦ Increase signage and aids for visual and hearing impaired – in consultation with those in need 	<p>Identify appropriate storage for equipment and ensure that items are not left indiscriminately</p> <p>Remove obstacles around signed emergency routes</p>	<p>Ongoing – When money allows.</p> <p>Asap</p>	No cost
Main Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ WCs 	<p>Clear areas from obstacles and inappropriate storage</p>	<p>Asap</p>	No cost
	Multi-media area	Improve acoustics	Ongoing – When money allows.	

LOCATION	ITEM TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	Cost (est.) £
Music Room (Block 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance Internal doors WC Window to LHS of entrance 	<p>(1) Ensure floor areas & slopes have non-slip services</p> <p>(2) provide lighting at base of ramp – hardly ever used in dark – parents evenings, governor meetings, etc</p> <p>Replace doors and introduce vision panels</p> <p>(1) Provide WC for ambulant users</p> <p>(2) provide grab rails</p> <p>Replace window opening outward onto access ramp</p>	Ongoing – When money allows.	
Kid Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cubicle with grab rail in girls toilet is not wheelchair accessible, door cannot open outward due to the proximity of washbasin 	Either relocate wash basin or widen the other toilet, rehang the door to open outwards and relocate grab rail	When money allows	
External entrance to yr 3, yr 4 & kidzone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All have step up, not accessible by wheelchair users 	Provide removable ramps	Asap,	
All future extensions & improvement work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of recent additions not fully in compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ramp outside the music room should have a longer landing with 1200mm beyond the doorway to the top of the ramp, it only extends 180mm beyond the doorway - steps from car park to entrance should have an unobstructed width of 1000mm, it is 840mm between handrails 	To comply with the current Building Regulations	When circumstances arise, like the servery extension	