St Teresa's Catholic Academy

Accessibility Plan

Updated May 2020

Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Legislation and guidance 2
3. Action plan 2
4. Monitoring arrangements 2
5. Links with other policies 2
Appendix 1 Action Plan 2020

1. Aims

Schools are required under the **Equality Act 2010** to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

At St Teresa's we make every effort to ensure all pupils experience all aspects of the curriculum and school life. Our Equality Scheme outlines that all pupils are equal and should be accommodated to ensure equal access in every area of school life. In the event of an individual demonstrating restricted access to the curriculum and school experience, the Inclusion department involves relevant professionals. Specialist advice and recommendations are followed as fully as possible. The necessary adaptations are made to meet the specific needs of the individual and ensure full access to the curriculum.

The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues.

The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan.

Our school's complaints procedure covers the Accessibility Plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

2. Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of **schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010**.
The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on his or her ability to undertake normal day to day activities.
Under the **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice**, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.
Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the **Equality Act 2010**, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

3. Action plan

This action plan sets out the aims of our Accessibility Plan in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

It is an audit of to ensure resources/materials are available for everyday use for pupils and staff. If a child or adult with a specific disability, which has not already been catered for, comes to the school on a regular basis their needs will be addressed as a priority.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every 3 years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff members.

It will be approved by the governing board and Headteacher.

5. Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy
- Health and safety policy
- Equality Scheme
- Special educational needs (SEN) information report and policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Teaching and Learning policy