



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

St Mary's Way
Baldock
SG7 6HY

www.stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01462 892347

Accessibility Plan 2021-2024

Our Vision

We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness. We share, care, learn and love with God, valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and creation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus’ Kingdom comes and everyone can flourish together.

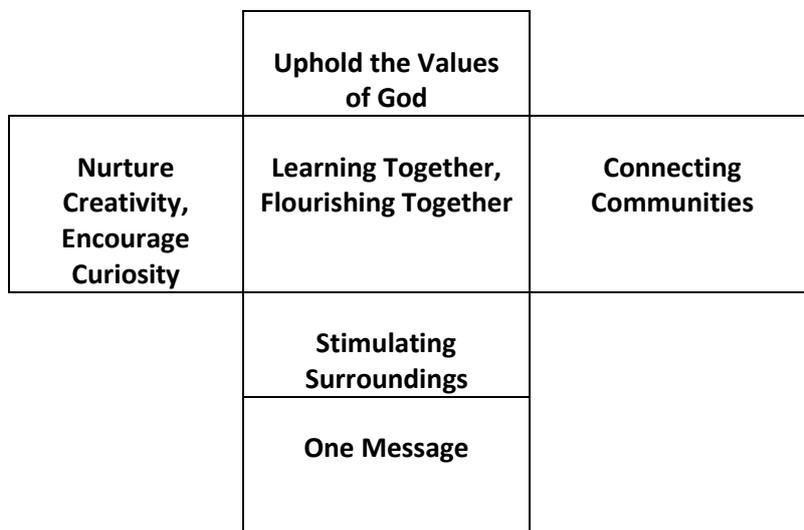
Our Mission

‘Sharing, caring, learning and loving with God.’

Our Values

Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Trust, Thankfulness, Humility, Generosity, Forgiveness, Courage, Peace, Compassion, Responsibility

Our 6 Key ideals that underpin our vision



Understanding our vision

Our 6 key ideals were created through the input of all stakeholders as being important factors in what we want from our school every day.

‘We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10) Church of England vision for Education

‘Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God’ (School’s mission statement)

‘Valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and all creation’ (Reference to Jonah and the Whale and the Church of England vision)

‘Through the power of the Holy Spirit’ (The importance of the Holy trinity and that we can’t do it alone. We must work together.)

‘Jesus’ kingdom comes.’ (Themed verse, Lord’s Prayer and the goal of the school for us to create a peaceful and successful kingdom)

Flourish: Achievement

Together: Community

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance 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 of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning the 'schools cannot lawfully 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 a long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives. 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.

Objectives

St Mary's 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.

The school recognizes and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

St Mary's Infant 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 physical and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as 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 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 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 and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various formats within a reasonable timeframe.

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

Whole school training will recognize the needs 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:

Equality and Diversity Scheme
Behaviour Policy
Anti- Bullying Policy
Curriculum Policies

Health & Safety Policy
School Development Plan
SEN Information Report
SEND offer
Inclusion & SEN Policy
Teaching & Learning Policy

The Accessibility Audit relates to the physical accessibility of the School, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. The 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.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website

The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Resources Committee

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

It is a requirement that the school's accessibility plan is resources, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually. Attached is an action plan showing how the school will address the priorities identified and the audit on the physical environment.

Any complaints need to be followed using the school's complaints policy as published on the school website.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan for our school were identified by:

- **The Governing Body**
- **Head Teacher**
- **INCo**
- **Site Manager**

- **Parents**

The plan is constantly under review to accommodate any new starters with a disability.

Approved by:

Date:

Next review date:

Aims and objectives

Objective	<p>That all children have equal accessibility to the taught curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will take into account the pupils' disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents/carers when their ISP/Care Plan is developed The progress and well-being of children with SEND or disabilities is rigorously tracked and monitored 			
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Outcome
Pupils with visual impairments have access to the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pupils placed near front of class ✓ Larger type used ✓ Coloured paper used where appropriate ✓ Information provided orally or on tape ✓ Advice sought from the VI team ✓ Training given to staff as necessary 	<p>If required</p> <p>If required</p>	<p>Class Teacher</p> <p>Head/INCO</p>	Classrooms are accessible to visually impaired children
Availability of written material in alternative formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School makes itself aware of the services available through its LEA for converting written information into alternative formats 	<p>If required</p>	<p>INCO</p>	School can provide written information in alternative formats if needed
Pupils with hearing impairments have access to the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pupils placed near front of class ✓ Pupils spoken to directly ✓ Speech reinforced using facial expressions, signs or gestures ✓ Speech reinforced with visual back-up print, pictures, concrete materials ✓ Repeat other pupils' answers ✓ Rephrase or repeat words and phrases ✓ Use of microphones or personal amplification systems ✓ Advice sought from the HI team ✓ Training given to staff as necessary 	<p>If required</p> <p>If required</p>	<p>Class Teacher</p> <p>Head/INCO</p>	Classrooms are accessible to hearing impaired children

Ensure all school visits and trips are accessible to all pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure venues and means of transport are vetted for suitability ✓ Develop guidance on making trips accessible ✓ Complete individual risk assessments where necessary 	Ongoing	INCO/Class Teachers	All children able to participate in trips and visits
To review curriculum areas and planning to include disability issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Include specific reference to disability equality in all curriculum policy reviews 	Ongoing	Subject Lead/INCO/Head	Curriculum accessible to all pupils

Objective	That all members of the school community have equal opportunities to access the School premises			
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Outcome
Wheelchair access to Year 2 area of school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure lift remains in good working order and is readily available by ensuring serviced annually 	Yearly	Site Manager	Lift works when needed and enables the whole school to be accessible to all
Clear school signage exists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure signage is clear and updated in line with any changes to the school building 	Ongoing	Head	All visitors are able to navigate their way around the school
Ensure adequate planning has taken place to the physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Accessibility audit to be undertaken regularly ✓ Prioritise and plan changes bearing in mind current/expected needs of pupils and cost implications ✓ Interweave plans with the premises plans 	Ongoing	Head/INCO	Physical accessibility of school maintained during changes
Ensure everyone can exit the school buildings in the event of an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Risk assessments have taken place ✓ All children necessary have Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans 	Ongoing	Head INCO	All pupils, staff and visitor's safety is protected during an emergency
Ensure everyone has access to first aid in the event of an accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ First aid training for staff up to date, including Epi-pen training ✓ First aid supplies purchased as necessary ✓ Staff aware of medical issues of children and these are logged on SIMs ✓ Individual Health Care Plans in place as required ✓ Advice sought from School Nursing Team as necessary 	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Head/Office staff Office Staff INCO	Everyone on school premises has access to first aid treatment should they need it.
Ensure access for visual impaired members of the school community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advice sought from VI team ✓ Risk assessment for site/PE and play equipment carried out and reviewed 	If required	INCO/Class Teacher	Visually impaired members of the school community can access the whole site safely.

	✓ Pupils to be at the front of the line with adults when negotiating steps	If required	Class Teachers	
	✓ Edges of steps clearly marked	Ongoing	Site Manager	

Objective	That all members of the school community have equal to access information provided by the School			
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Outcome
Ensure all pupils have access to written information in an appropriate format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advice from outside professionals on which size/background in best ✓ Source electronic copies of texts such as reading books, to allow us to modify 	Ongoing	INCO/Class Teacher	Information accessible to all pupils
Ensure all parents/prospective parents have access to written information in an appropriate format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As the need arises, written information will be provided in different formats 	If required	Head/Office Staff	Information accessible to all parents
Ensure parents are aware of SEND information, courses and support groups and other school based information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newsletters and website up to date ✓ Ad hoc communications as School are notified of events 	Ongoing	Head/Office Staff	Increased support to families with SEND
Ensure website is well laid out and organised to ensure information is easy to locate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use colours that are easier for visually impaired users. ✓ Font is clear and easy to read ✓ Translation tool included on website to allow multi-lingual access 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>Office Staff</p> <p>Office Staff</p>	All pupils, staff and visitor's safety is protected during an emergency

Access audit

Feature	Description	Actions to be taken	Person responsible	Date to complete actions by
Number of floors	Majority of the school is on one level. Year 2 area of the school is located via low level steps. Wheelchair lift is available	Ensure yearly service on wheelchair lift is carried out	Office Manager Head	Yearly
Corridor access	Corridor is accessed by all classrooms and is accessible to all. Wide enough for wheelchairs & walking frames	Ensure corridor is kept free of obstructions	Class teachers	Ongoing
Lifts	Only 1 (see section 2 above)	As section 2 above		
Parking bays	Disabled Bay available in staff carpark	Investigate ways of keeping bay clear Possibility of remarking to make best use of space and ease of access	Head	
Entrances	Entrance is clearly signed	Consider signs available in other languages / larger font/ use of colour	Head	
Ramps	All outside classroom doors have ramp access/flat access	Monitor standard	Site Manager	On going
Toilets	Each year group has boys and girls toilets in communal areas. Disabled toilet/ First Aid room is located in the centre of the school.	Maintain standards	Site Manager	On going
Reception area	Reception located through automatic door activated with low level button	Service automatic doors annually Update sensors as necessary to ensure doors remain safe and functioning well	Head	

Internal signage	Fire escape signs in school	Ensure they remain visible Investigate signs in different languages as reflected in school community	Head & Site Manager	
Emergency escape routes	Fire Risk Assessment completed annually Daily checks as part of Site Manager daily routine Checked half termly as part of Health & Safety Checklist		Head & Site Manager	Ongoing