



With God nothing is impossible - Luke 1:37
You are the light of the world – Matthew 5:14

Accessibility Policy and Plan

Policy Author:	Sonia Thompson
Approved by/when:	Governing Body Every 3 years
Date of last approval:	November 2024
Due for review:	November 2027

Aims

Mission Statement:

St Matthew's is a community of learners; planning, pursuing and providing excellence and enjoyment through Christian values. Children are valued for their individuality and heritage. They are supported and motivated to fulfil their potential; in order to meet the challenges of a changing society.

Responsibilities

The governors of the school are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Headteacher for implementation.

This policy will be published on the school website.

Monitoring and evaluating

This policy will be monitored as part of the schools' monitoring and evaluation programme.

St Matthew's Equality Principles:

- All learners are of equal value
- Recognise and respect difference
- Foster positive attitudes and relationships and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
- Observe good equalities practice in staff recruitment, retention and development
- Aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist
- Consult and involve widely
- Society as a whole should benefit
- Base our practices on sound evidence
- Measurable objectives

Our school is an inclusive school. We aim to make all children feel included in all our activities. We try to make all our teaching fully inclusive. We recognise the entitlement of all children to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. We have systems in place for early identification of barriers to their learning and participation so that they can engage in school activities with all other children. We acknowledge the need for high expectations and suitable targets for all children.

We actively encourage equity and equality through our work. No gender, race, creed, sexuality or ethnicity will be discriminated against. The school's Disability Equality Policy will be followed and the use of stereotypes under any of the above headings will always be challenged.

Introduction

At St Matthew's we believe that every child should have access to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. This should take account of their individual strengths and needs and should allow each child to fulfil their potential.

Aims and objectives of this policy

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

Our Accessibility Plan (see the end of this document) has been drawn based upon the needs of the school and the school site, in conjunction with parents, staff and governors and will advise other school documents. The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed annually in respect of progress and outcomes.

The Accessibility Plan that follows this accessibility policy is structured to complement and support the school's equality objectives and will be published on the school's website.

We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access and values 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

Our Accessibility Plan shows how access can be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given time frame 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 pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; 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 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 about the school and school events; the information should be made available in preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe

The Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information.

Whole school training will recognise the need to continue to raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

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

- Curriculum policy
- Equality Objectives
- Disability Equality Scheme
- Health and Safety policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy
- Behaviour policy
- School Improvement Plan

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 and remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of the Accessibility Plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be complete by the school to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the on-going period.

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School Accessibility Plan 2024-2027 - Improving the physical access

Target	Strategies	Timescale	What will success look like?
<p>To be aware of the access needs of disabled children, staff, Governors and parents/ carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the school staff & governors are aware of access issues ('access' meaning 'access to' and 'access from') • Create access plans for individual disabled children as part of the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) process • Ensure staff and governors can access areas of school used meetings • Annual reminder to parents and carers through newsletter to let us know if they have problems with access to areas of school • Ensure a PEEP (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan) is prepared and reviewed if someone at school (pupil or adult) becomes physically impaired 	<p>As required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND objectives are in place for disabled pupils, and all staff are aware of pupils' needs. • All staff & governors are confident that their needs are met. • Continuously monitored to ensure any new needs arising are met. • Parents have full access to all areas of school • PEEPs are prepared and reviewed as individual needs change • Y6 classroom is located in the current Y5 classroom, if we have a disabled child/staff etc.
<p>Maintain safety for visually impaired people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if any children have a visual impairment resulting in yellow paint being needed on step edges and other edges • Check exterior lighting is working on a regular basis • Put black/ yellow hazard tape on poles at end of play equipment to help visually impaired children, if appropriate • Check flashing beacons that signal fire alarm activation regularly 	<p>Annually, and as new children join the school throughout the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually impaired people feel safe in school grounds. Yellow edges and flashing beacons to be monitored as needed throughout the school year.
<p>Ensure there are enough fire exits around school that are suitable for people with a disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff are aware of need to keep fire exits clear 	<p>Daily</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All disabled personnel and pupils have safe exits from school.

Accessible car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disabled members of staff and visitors have a place to park in the staff car park near the front of the school• The gate into the playground can be opened to allow people with mobility issues/ wheel chairs to access the main school building	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a place for disabled members of staff and visitors to park throughout the school day.
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St Matthew's C.E. Primary School Accessibility Plan 2024-2027 - Improving the curriculum access

Target	Strategies	Timescale	What will success look like?
All school visits and trips need to be 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 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils are able to access all school trips and take part in a range of activities
Review PE curriculum to ensure PE is accessible to all pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review PE curriculum to include disability sports 	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils have access to PE and are able to excel, for example via support from an adult
Ensure disabled children can take part equally in library, lunchtime and after school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with staff who run out of school clubs, and people running other clubs after school. Support would need to be available – especially after school • Ensure there is a way of getting children with mobility issues/ wheelchairs to participate – including leaving school via the playground gates instead of the main front door which has steps in front • Ensure shelving is accessible and furniture is movable 	As required/ On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled children feel able to participate equally in out of school activities.
Ensure support staff have specific training on disability issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify training needs at regular meetings 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised confidence of support staff
Ensure disabled children can move from classrooms to the hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the corridor leading up to the hall is clear of obstructions 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled children can get to the hall from the classrooms
Ensure the curriculum and resources include examples of people with disabilities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all subject leaders consider the resources/are they reflective, when they are purchasing them 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children can see themselves in the books/resources we use and display.
Ensure that information provided in large print, Braille, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate where this could be done and translate when requested 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children/parents/staff/visitors can access all information.