



St Augustine's C.E (C) First School

Accessibility Plan 2017-2020

St Augustine's First School - Accessibility Plan – 2017 to 2020

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1. Introduction:

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 Augustine's First School the Plan will form part of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the Executive Co-Headteachers and evaluated by the relevant Governors' committee.

At St Augustine's First 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.

- 1) The St Augustine's First 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.
- 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 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.
- 3) St Augustine's First 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.

4) The St Augustine's First 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.

5) The St Augustine's First School 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) This Accessibility Plan should be considered when developing and updating the following school policies, strategies and documents:

- Asset Management Plan
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Business Continuity Plan
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality Plan
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Staff Development Policy

8) 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.

- 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 Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
- 11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Finance and Premises Committee
- 12) The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.
- 13) 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**
- **To maintain good practice already in place.**

Our objectives are detailed in the Action Plan below

3. Current good practice - going into 2014

- Autism - consultation with Autism Outreach Team.
- Dyslexia - build on dyslexia friendly strategies and resources already in place.
- Social Skills - circle time, friendship groups, reflection area outside, prayer boxes in each classroom, Kindness Awards (Uttoxeter cares scheme).
- Care plans in place for all specified pupils.
- Dyslexia Friendly Full Status School.
- All classrooms carpeted.
- Coloured overlays for pupils with dyslexic tendencies and cream papered English books for all children.
- Speech and language therapy programmes for specified pupils.
- One Page Profiles.
- School Nurse Liaison.
- Access and knowledge of external support - mobility; visual impairment team; hearing impairment team, speech therapist; Autism outreach; Behaviour Support; CAMHS; nurses etc.
- Other 'reasonable adjustments' made as needs demand.

4. Access Audit

The main school building is single storey with a reception area leading into the school hall and a further access point to the hall from outside. The school hall leads to three classrooms as well as containing access to the kitchen. Each classroom has a door to access outdoors.

There is a small on-site car parking for staff and visitors, at present this does not have a designated disabled parking bay. The main entrance features a secure lobby which is fitted with a reception hatch. There are disabled toilet facilities available. This is fitted with a handrail and low sink.

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 the Local Authority and Parents.

Improving the Curriculum Access

Improving the Curriculum Access at St Peter's First School

Target	Strategy	Responsible	Timeframe	Achievement
Raise awareness of requirements of the Equality Act and Accessibility policy	Raise awareness in staff and governors meetings by literature and discussion	Executive Co-Headteachers	Ongoing	
All out-of-school activities are planned to ensure the participation of the whole range of pupils	All out-of-school activities will be conducted in an inclusive environment with providers that comply with all current and future legislative requirements	Executive Co-Headteachers All Staff Office Manager	Continual	
Classrooms are optimally organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases	Executive Co-Headteachers All Staff	Continual	
Training and Awareness of Disability Issues	Provide training for governors, staff, pupils and parents. Discuss perception of issues with staff to determine the current status of school	Executive Co-Headteachers Whole school community SENCO	By Summer 2018	

Improving the Delivery of Written Information

Target	Strategy	Responsible	Timeframe	Achievement
<p>Availability of written material in alternative formats The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when required for individual purposes</p>	<p>The school will make itself aware of the services available through the LA for converting written information into alternative formats.</p>	<p>Executive Co-Headteachers SENCO Literacy Co-ordinator All staff</p>	<p>July 2018</p>	
<p>Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents available in alternative formats</p>	<p>Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats for those that require it</p>	<p>Executive Co-Headteachers Office Manager</p>	<p>Continual When Required</p>	

Improving the Physical Access

Target	Strategy	Responsible	Timeframe	Achievement
Accessible car parking	Explore various signage to provide a designated bay to be used for disabled parking.	Office/Property Manager	By Sept 2018	
Clear passage through corridors	Ensure corridors are kept clear of clutter and obstacles	All Staff / H & S Officer	Continual	