



St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

This plan was originally formulated by a working party consisting of Nick Pring (previous Lead Governor for Premises), Hayley Champ (previous SENDCo) and Tania Beard (Head teacher). The plan has now been reviewed by Headteacher, School Business manager and Lead Governor for Premises in March 2018.

St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School encourages all members of the school community to be the best that they can be for themselves and for God's world.

St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect. Pupils should be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and value diversity.

Definition of a disability

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.

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight and hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long-term and substantial effect on pupils' everyday lives.

We recognise:

Schools and LAs must:

- ❖ not treat disabled pupils less favourably; and
- ❖ take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage (the 'reasonable adjustment' duty)

- ❖ that Local Authority and school governors have the duty to publish Accessibility Strategies and Plans

St. Martin's CE Primary & Nursery School will also aim to work within the guidelines set out in the SEN Code of Practice and the regulations as detailed in the Equality Act 2010. We recognize that accessibility applies to the following areas:

- Preparation for entry to the school
- the curriculum
- teaching and learning
- classroom organization
- timetabling
- grouping of pupils
- homework
- access to school facilities
- activities to supplement the curriculum
- school sports
- school policies
- breaks and lunchtimes
- the serving of school meals
- interaction with peers
- assessment and exam arrangements
- school discipline and sanctions
- school clubs and activities
- school trips
- the school arrangements for working with other agencies
- preparation of pupils for the next phase of education.

Scope of the Plan

This plan covers all three main strands of the planning duty:

1. Improving the physical environment of school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and associated services.

This strand of the planning duty covers aids to improve the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education. The physical environment includes things such as steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces and paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits (including emergency escape routes), internal and external doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lighting, ventilation, lifts, floor coverings, signs and furniture. Aids to physical access include ramps, handrails, lifts, widened doorways, electromagnetic doors, adapted toilets and washing facilities, adjustable lighting, blinds, induction loops and way-finding systems.

Physical aids to access education cover things such as ICT equipment, enlarged computer screens and keyboards, concept key boards, switches, specialist desks and chairs and portable aids for children with motor coordination and poor hand/eye skills, such as extra robust scientific glassware and specialist pens and pencils.

In maintained schools the provision of a special piece of equipment or extra assistance will be made through the SEN framework and to a lesser extent through the planning duty which applies to all schools. The distinction between auxiliary aids

and services provided through the SEN route and those provided under the planning duty is that the SEN duties relate to the individual, whereas the planning duty relates to the provision of aids or services in terms of the population (and future population) of the school. For example, a pupil with visual impairment might have low vision aids provided through the statement of SEN but the school might as a general measure provide blinds and adjustable lighting through the planning duty.

2. Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in schools' curriculums.

This strand of the planning duty will help to improve access to a full, broad and balanced curriculum. It covers a range of elements including ensuring that teaching and learning is accessible through school and classroom organisation and support, especially deployment of staff, timetabling, curriculum options and staff information and training.

Schools will be expected to plan to improve progressively access to the curriculum for all disabled pupils although many adjustments to access will be dependent on individual needs and may be provided through the SEN framework. The accessibility strategies and plans will help to ensure that schools are planning and preparing to respond to the particular needs of individual pupils.

3. Improving the delivery of information to pupils with disabilities.

This part of the duty covers planning to make information normally provided by the school in writing to its pupils – such as handouts, timetables, textbooks, information about school events – available to disabled pupils. This will include alternative formats such as Braille, audio tape and large print and also the provision of information orally, through lip speaking or sign language, through a recognised symbol system or ICT. This information should also be made available within a reasonable time frame and take account of the pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents' preferred formats.

Equality for disabled pupils is included as an implicit aim in all of the school's policies and is supported by the school's other policies including:

- ❖ Curriculum Policy
- ❖ Equality Policy
- ❖ Behaviour Policy
- ❖ Admissions Policy
- ❖ Nursery Admissions Policy
- ❖ School Asset Management Plan
- ❖ Outdoor Education and Visits Policy
- ❖ SEND Policy

Aims

St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School aims to include all pupils, including those with disabilities, in the full life of the school. Our strategies to do this will include:

- ❖ having high expectations of all pupils
- ❖ finding ways in which all pupils can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music, and drama
- ❖ planning out-of-school activities including all school trips and excursions so that pupils with disabilities can participate
- ❖ following Devon County admissions policy and criteria which does not discriminate against pupils with disabilities or treat them unfairly
- ❖ devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for pupils with disabilities
- ❖ planning the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities
- ❖ raising awareness of disability amongst school staff (teaching and non-teaching) through training
- ❖ by providing written information for pupils with disabilities in a form which is user friendly.
- ❖ by using language which does not offend in all its literature and make staff and pupils aware of the importance of language.
- ❖ by examining our library and reading books to ensure that there are examples of positive images of disabled people

Actions to ensure equality for pupils with disabilities

1. We have undertaken an audit (March 2018) and at the present time have no pupils who are denied access to the curriculum in its widest sense because of a disability. St Martin's school building is fully compliant with all disability standards, having been built in 2012 to be DDA compliant. All areas of our school are accessible to children and parents.

2. We will redo the audit on a 3 yearly cycle or if we are preparing to admit a child with a disability.

As a result of the audit, we shall:

- ❖ make accessibility plan known to all teaching and support staff, pupils and parents
- ❖ monitor the success of the plan

- ❖ the Plan will be reviewed annually by the governor team elected by the Resources Committee. The Governing Body will report on how targets, when set, have been met.

Monitoring

St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School recognises that monitoring is essential to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not being disadvantaged and that monitoring leads to action planning. We will monitor :-

- ❖ Admissions
- ❖ Attainment
- ❖ Attendance
- ❖ Punctuality
- ❖ Effects of pastoral strategies
- ❖ Exclusions
- ❖ Selection & recruitment of staff
- ❖ Governing body representation

Access Plan

1. The school was opened in September 2012 and the Governors believe that all areas are accessible to all children and parents. This will continue to be monitored carefully in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and if any issues relating to accessibility are identified an action plan will be put in place which identifies the measures needed to rectify this. The effectiveness of any measures taken will be monitored.

2. The school has created a curriculum and adopted an ICT infrastructure which will enable participation by all current pupils. This, again, will be monitored throughout the year.

REVIEW TERM: Three years

ADOPTED: 8th October 2012

DATES REVIEWED: 26th November 2014, 2nd May 2018

DATES AMENDED: Updated 4th May 2016 to add reference to the Equality Act and SEN Code of Practice.