



Accessibility Policy

2018

St Teresa of Lisieux Accessibility Policy

At St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School we are committed to ensuring that all children have the high quality learning opportunities necessary in order for them to reach their potential. Our values and vision are reflected in the high expectations we have in all members of our school community. Each person is highly valued and included. Our school ethos is one of trust and mutual respect where we work hard to ensure that there are no invisible learners, recognising everyone's individual needs and successes.

We will endeavour to ensure that each child will grow in confidence, develop self-reliance and an ability to articulate feelings and ideas. We attach great importance to the development of the children's social skills and seek to enable them to build relationships with other children and adults and be sensitive to the feelings and the needs of others. These important skills will enable the children to succeed in a safe and caring environment.

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 equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that "schools cannot 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 / 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 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 compliance with that duty.

Objectives

St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary 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 fostering a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

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

St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given time-frame 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 disability and/or sensory impairment, 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 of 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 time-frame;
- 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 time-frame;
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might be 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 time-frame. St Teresa of Lisieux Accessibility Plan relates to key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information. 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.

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

- Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Emergency Plan
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Development Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Teaching & Learning Policy

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. 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.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the website. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the governors' Finance 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 resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised as necessary and reported on annually.

Attached is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The priorities for the Accessibility Plan were identified by:

- Safeguarding Governor
- SENDCo
- Headteacher

This policy will be reviewed as required

Signed :

Head Teacher.

Date: