



St. Cuthbert's R.C.  
Primary School Hartlepool

## Accessibility Policy

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## Accessibility Policy

### Mission Statement

"Let the light of Christ shine in us all."

### Introduction

The schools' duties around accessibility for disabled pupils are: -

Schools and Local Authorities need to carry out accessibility planning for disabled pupils.

These are the same duties as previously existed under the Disability Discrimination Act and have been replicated in the Equality Act 2010 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) requires the Governing Body to: -

- Promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Pupils, staff, parents, carers and other people who use our school or may wish to.

This Accessibility Plan and the accompanying Action Plan, sets out how the Governing Body will

improve equality of opportunity for disabled people. The SEND Code of Practice and Disability Act 2010 extended the DDA to cover education and therefore the Governing Body has three main duties towards disabled pupils: -

- not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for reasons related to their disability
- to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage including potential adjustments which may be needed in the future.
- to plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan sets out the proposals of the Governing Body of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA: -

- increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.
- improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and associated services.
- improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled.

It is a requirement that our school's Accessibility Plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. Attached is an Action Plan, [Appendix 1] showing how the school will address priorities identified in the plan.

This plan incorporates the school's intention to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

In drawing up the Accessibility Plan the school has set the following priorities: -

- to provide safe access throughout the school for all school users, irrespective of their disability.
- to ensure that the teaching and learning environment and the resources used are suitable for all staff and pupils, tailoring the requirements to suit individual needs
- to provide training to all staff regarding the needs of disabled people and how to provide
- assistance to enable them to enjoy the school experience as fully as possible

At St Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School we are committed to establishing equality for all pupils, their parents, staff and other users of the school. This is reflected in our school Vision Statement, which states: -

- Our shared vision at St Cuthbert's is to provide a welcoming, aspirational environment which empowers all children to learn to their full potential and equip them with the life skills necessary for the future.

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to implement our vision in a manner which promotes the inclusive ethos of our school.

### **The involvement of disabled children and young people, staff and parents.**

In preparing this Accessibility Plan, pupils, parents and governors were involved as described in the Disability Equality Scheme. It has been informed by analysis of pupil and staff data and additional information gathered.

According to the Act a "disabled person is defined as someone who has a physical or mental

impairment which has an effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities". The effect must be substantial, long term and adverse. The DDA definition of disability covers physical disabilities, sensory impairments and learning disabilities.

St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School Primary School is committed to equal opportunities and inclusion. This strategy should be considered alongside the following school policy documents: -

- SEND information report
- Inclusion Policy

This plan considers the following three areas as identified in the introduction: -

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum by securing relevant staff training and ensuring appropriate classroom organisation.
- Improving the physical environment of the school such as ramps and handrails as well as physical aids to access education such as specialist desks and ICT equipment.
- Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is already provided to pupils who are not disabled. This should be done within a reasonable period of time and in formats that take account of any views expressed by pupils or parents about their preferred means of communication such as Braille, audio tape, large print and the provision of information orally.

## Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum

The school SEND Policy ensures that staff identify, assess and arrange suitable provision for pupils with disabilities and special educational needs. Working with the Local Authority and Educational Psychology Service, the SENCo manages the Statutory Assessment Process, ensuring additional resources are available where appropriate.

The school Inclusion Team provides additional support for pupils and supports teachers in implementing strategies for improving pupils' behaviour and access to learning.

The school works closely with specialist services including: -

- Hearing Impaired Children's Service
- Visual Impairment Advisory and Support Service
- Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists
- Speech and Language Therapy

## Improving access to the physical environment of the school.

This element of the Planning Duty covers all areas of the physical environment such as external areas, buildings and fixtures and fittings. The aim is to continue to enhance the environment to meet the needs of all pupils and ensure that they have access to all aspects of education offered by St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School Primary School.

## Improving the delivery of information to disabled persons.

Staff are aware of the services available through the Local Authority.

Policy monitoring and review:

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Governing Body

**Appendix 1 Action Plan** - these are available as requested.

Available	Responsibility
All written material in alternative formats when specifically requested.	Headteacher and Governors
School Brochures, newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats when specifically requested.	Headteacher and Governors

The Governors and Headteacher will ensure that the following adjustments would be made in school as required, for a pupil to be admitted in to school equally and safely to St. Cuthbert's:

IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS AT ST. CUTHBERT'S				
ACCESS REPORT REF:	ITEM	ACTIVITY	TIMESCALE	COST
1	Signage	Appropriate signs for visually impaired	As required	TBC
2	Door Access	Portable ramps for areas with restricted access i.e. Outside classrooms (huts)	As required	TBC
3	Enhance reception for hearing impaired	Hearing loop added to main reception / in classrooms as required	As required	TBC
4	Signage	Signage at classroom entrances	As required	TBC
5	Move location of a classroom as required as wheelchairs cannot access upstairs	No lift in school for upstairs but downstairs is accessible for a wheel chair. Classes would be moved to accessible rooms	As required	TBC