

Accessibility Plan for St Brigid's Catholic Primary School (from 2016 to 2019)

Overview

Under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 this school recognises the need to provide adequate resources for implementing an accessibility plan and we will ensure that the plan reflects our Disability, SEN and Single Equality Policies. In line with those policies we will take the necessary steps to ensure that every young person, their families and also employees are given equality of opportunity to develop socially, work, participate and learn and to enjoy community life.

Objectives

1. Increase the extent to which SEN and disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum;
2. Improve the physical environment of the school to enable SEN and disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided;
3. Improve the availability of accessible information to SEN and disabled pupils

Strategy:

1. The school will identify the nature of the school population including pupils already in school and moving through it and the nature of the future intake using advance information from other settings (pre-school/primary school)
2. The school will audit the strengths and weaknesses in working with disabled pupils to include; the level of staff awareness of Equalities legislation; areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils might have limited or no access
3. The school will review the opportunities for the participation of disabled pupils in after school clubs and school visits
4. The school will review the building and identify parts of the school to which disabled pupils have no or limited access
5. The school will consider the impact on disabled pupils of the way the school is organised, for example, school policies and practices around the administration of medicines and the physical environment of the school
6. The school will review the ways in which information is currently provided for disabled pupils
7. The school will report its findings to key stakeholders without breaching confidentiality
8. The plan will be informed by the views and aspirations of disabled pupils themselves, their families and the priorities of the local authority

Overview - The plan:

The access plan will be very specific to this school based on the information gathered and consultation results. The plan will address the three areas of improving access to;

1. The physical environment
2. Access to education, benefits, facilities and services
3. Access to information usually provided in written form, and it will set out strategies for funding, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the plan

The definition of disability under the law is a wide one.

- A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has an adverse, substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- The definition includes people with a Hearing or Visual Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, mental health issues and incontinence. People with ADHD, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Downs Syndrome and Hydrocephalus are included. Medical conditions such as Cystic Fibrosis, severe Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy, Sickle Cell Anaemia and HIV are deemed disabilities. Facial disfigurement, severe Dyslexia, gross obesity and diagnosed eating disorders are all included.
- If a person has been disabled in the past (for example, those recovering from cancer and people with a history of mental illness) they are still covered by the legislation for the rest of their life.

Audit:

The school will use the following audit to assess its strengths and areas for development and then to plan the changes that it needs to make

Part 1: Physical environment

a. Toilet, Changing and Personal Care Facilities

Does the school have adequate facilities currently?

1. Is there an accessible toilet facility that is large enough to accommodate a toilet and washbasin, bed, hoist and space for child, wheelchair and up to two adults?
2. Do we have private and well-equipped areas for personal care and showering? Is there space for space for child, wheelchair and up to two adults?
3. Is there a toilet cubicle that is slightly larger than average with handrails?
4. Is there a medical room where necessary treatment and therapy can be carried out in private?
5. Do job descriptions for new support staff ensure that meeting the medical needs of disabled pupils is included?
6. Is there a policy and strategy for the safe keeping and administration of medicines?
7. Is there a known emergency response strategy in care of a medical emergency and are staff adequately trained in first aid in line with the statutory requirements?
8. Are urgent contact lists up to date and accessible in an emergency?

b. Physical Accessibility:

1. Have we assessed the implications of physically disabled pupils accessing the upper areas of our building?
2. Do we have clearly identified in the plans for individual pupils and in the general evacuation procedures for disabled visitors?
3. If we have steps but no physically disabled pupils currently, have we made plans for potential pupils in line with our 'anticipatory duty'?
4. Many physically disabled pupils are using powered wheelchairs which can be quite large. Is there any accessible equipment which may be too small for modern larger wheelchairs eg older toilets?
5. Does the school need to plan to improve access for power chair users in accessing the school site eg field, playgrounds etc?
6. Are there allocated parking spaces for the parents of disabled pupils and do we ensure that the space is not used inappropriately, or blocked by other vehicles?
7. Is the access into school from the parking space level with no obstacles?
8. Are there any heavy doors, sharp narrow turns and cluttered corridors that might be barriers to access? Where classroom space is tight, have adjustments been made to classroom layout in order to facilitate access
9. Will some disabled pupils need specialist furniture in order to access the curriculum?

10. Is the school aware of any existing support to purchase any necessary equipment?

Part 2: Access to the curriculum and learning:

1. Are all areas of the curriculum available to pupils regardless of their disability?
2. Where an activity cannot be made accessible or would be inappropriate is an alternative activity planned for?
3. When we plan to improve access to the curriculum have we identified any reasonable adjustments needed to offer an equality of opportunity?
4. Do we offer and plan specific staff training will improve access to the curriculum to overcome the impairments of our disabled pupils?
5. Do we have plans and allocated funds for purchasing specialist equipment that will increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils eg plans to purchase more books with large print, writing slopes and pencil grips, or adjustable desks and chairs?
6. During our monitoring evaluation and review strategy for classroom observation do we review of the participation of disabled pupils during lessons and use observations to inform future developments in inclusion?
7. Access to school visits can be problematic for some disabled pupils. Do we keep the school's visits policy under review and use accessible venues and transport providers?
8. Is school transport accessible for pupils with mobility difficulties especially if they are wheelchair users? Will it be more cost effective to plan to have their own accessible transport for the future rather than using private providers?
9. Are the needs of pupils with hearing and visual impairment considered – hearing loops in classrooms, large print texts, ICT equipment and computers?

Part 3: Access to written information

1. Are there plans in place to investigate and provide symbol software to support learners with reading difficulties?
2. Are we proactive increasing staff awareness of font size and page layouts to support pupils with visual impairments?
3. Has the school library been audited to ensure the availability of large font and easy read texts will improve access?
4. Has the signage around the school been audited to ensure that is accessible to all?

Access Plan

Part 1: Physical environment

a. Toilet, Changing and Personal Care Facilities

1. Areas For Improvement	Accessible toileting facility
2. Intended Outcomes	To improve changing and personal care facilities
3. Actions	Contact Archdiocesan Surveyor for survey and advice
4. Resources	Interim resources of paediatric changing mat and sealable disposable bin sourced. Clinical waste collection in place.
5. Time Scale	Autumn term
6. Lead responsibility	Headteacher – R Tyler
7. Monitored Evaluated and Reviewed By	Link Governor – C O'Connor
8. Reported to Governing Body	Termly standing agenda item – Resources Committee

b. Physical Accessibility

1. Areas For Improvement	Review access arrangements annually or as required
2. Intended Outcomes	To allocate the most suitable classrooms for pupils with disabilities
3. Actions	When classrooms are allocated to year groups at the beginning of the academic year, physical accessibility for pupils should be factored in.
4. Resources	Access ramps
5. Time Scale	Immediate



6. Lead responsibility	Headteacher – R Tyler
7. Monitored Evaluated and Reviewed By	Link Governor – C O'Connor
8. Reported to Governing Body	Termly standing agenda item – Resources Committee

Part 2

a. Access to the curriculum and learning

1. Areas For Improvement	Resources used appropriately to support children's learning
2. Intended Outcomes	All areas of the curriculum are available to disabled pupils.
3. Actions	Staff/Parents identify barriers to learning Act on OT reports and information from P&R meetings Annual audit of resources
4. Resources	Buff paper, pencil grips, writing slopes, coloured overlays
5. Time Scale	On-going
6. Lead responsibility	SENCo – J Barker
7. Monitored Evaluated and Reviewed By	Headteacher – R Tyler
8. Reported to Governing Body	Termly standing agenda item at Standards Governors' meetings