



ST.PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus,
we serve, love and learn together,
inspiring each other to excellence."*

Accessibility Plan

February 20

2023

Associated documents:

SEND policy
SEND Information Report
Risk Assessment
Health and Safety Policy
Medical Needs Policy

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

Signed..... Date.....

Mr. T. O'Malley

Chair of Governors

Review date: Spring 2025

This plan has been written in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Introduction

Since September 2002, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 has been extended (by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) to cover discrimination faced by disabled students in schools and colleges. The Governing Body has since had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under part 4 of the DDA:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

Defining Disability

The definition of disability in the DDA is not the same as the definition for special educational needs. In particular, the DDA covers only those who have 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities'. This definition is considered in detail in guidance produced by the Disability Rights Commission. The DDA also covers those with:

- Severe disfigurements.
- Impairments which are controlled or corrected by the use of medication, prostheses, and aid or otherwise.
- Progressive symptomatic conditions.
- A history of impairment.
- Cancer, HIV or multiple sclerosis at the point of diagnosis.

However, the DDA does not cover addiction to or dependence on nicotine, tobacco or other non-prescribed drugs or substances; hay fever; or certain mental illnesses which have anti-social consequences. Accordingly, it might be possible for a student to have special educational needs, but not be disabled for the purposes of the DDA, and vice versa.

Purpose of the Accessibility Plan

The purpose of the plan is to outline how St. Patrick's School will strive to improve and maintain access to the following areas:

- To ensure that all pupils are fully involved in school life by identifying barriers to participation and in finding practical solutions.
- To increase the confidence and expertise of staff and support staff when teaching or aiding pupils with a wide range of disabilities.
- To develop strong collaborative relationships with pupils and parents and increase satisfaction in the provision made by the school.
- To promote equality of opportunity and promote positive attitudes towards children, young people and adults who are disabled.
- To ensure that pupils with additional needs have access to high quality teaching and resources which are stimulating and appropriate.
- To ensure that information is made more accessible for pupils, parents and visitors.
- To improve the physical environment of the school to increase safe access for pupils, staff, parents, community users and visitors.

Overall Aim

St. Patrick's school aims to treat all stakeholders, including pupils, prospective pupils, staff, and governors, fairly and equally and, wherever possible, takes reasonable steps to ensure that no individual is placed at a disadvantage. Our aim is to work closely with those pupils who may need additional support, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to help them access the curriculum and to participate in school life as fully as possible.

School Context

St. Patrick's is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided School that offers a primary education to children aged 5 – 11 years. In practice this means that the Archdiocese provides 15% of certain repair and building costs, the remainder being funded by central government via Sefton Local Authority. The Archdiocese raises this money by a school levy.

The school was opened in 1968 and is situated in an attractive suburb of Southport, by the sea. It caters primarily for Catholic children living in the parishes of St. Patrick's and also, St. Marie's.

The school mission statement underpins all aspects of school life at St. Patrick's and the school environment is calm and nurturing with a strong ethos of mutual respect. Staff are hard-working and committed and they are strongly supported by a highly skilled and dedicated management team. The children are hardworking, responsive and well-behaved and the parents are hugely supportive of all aspects of school life. We have a strong team of teaching assistants who possess many valuable skills which are utilised throughout the whole school.

The standard number for admission is 50; there are currently 343 on roll and the school is two form entry, 12.5% of our children receive F.S.M. and 7% of the pupils are on the SEND Register. The school has 17 teachers, including the Headteacher, 17 teaching assistants, 2 office administrators and a caretaker (February 2023).

School site

All our classrooms are on a single site and the school has benefited from considerable building extension work in recent years. The school comprises of twelve permanent classrooms in the main building and two outside classrooms. There is also a library, a computer suite and a large multi-purpose hall. Outside there is a purpose-built outdoor play area for Foundation Stage which incorporates an enclosed safe access to the Reception classrooms. There are separate infant and junior playgrounds and a school field to the rear of the building. Each of the play areas are equipped with climbing and play apparatus.

Current accessibility:

- The school has ramp access available at points around the building.
- There is a disabled toilet with changing facilities at the front of the building.
- Inhalers for those children with asthma are kept in classrooms and are readily accessible. A record of use is noted.
- EpiPens are kept in the child's class and are readily accessible.
- A copy of all medical information is kept in the class file and a master copy record is held in the school office.
- Children with food allergies/intolerances/cultural choices are catered for through discussion with the on-site kitchen manager, parents/carers, class teacher and lunchtime co-ordinator. Individual Health Care Plans are devised by the SENCo, with the parents, for those children with complex allergies.
- Administration of medicine consent forms are completed by parents/carers outlining the illness and amount and time of medication administered.
- There are 4 designated First Aiders (including two Lunchtime Supervisors) currently holding First Aid certificates.
- A range of resources are available in school to aid learning e.g. writing slopes, pencil grips and sensory resources (inc. purpose built sensory room).
- A Defibrillator is available on site and is kept at the front of the school building. Some staff members have been trained in the use of this equipment and are aware of its location.
- All classrooms have direct access to outside area.



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Accessibility Plan 2023-2025



Target	Task	Timescale	Resources	Responsibility	Monitoring	Task Completed
Access to the curriculum						
Create effective learning environments.	Ensure calm corners are in place throughout all classrooms. Ensure consistent use of Dyslexia friendly resources throughout school.	Autumn 2023	Sensory equipment SENCo time – learning walk	SENCo Teaching staff	SLT	
Ensure children who are visually impaired can fully access the curriculum	Limit use of red and green wipe board pens/ markers in the classroom. Use appropriate books with dark lines. Make a referral to sensory team for team and further resources. Ensure all staff are aware of particular children, especially for playtimes and lunchtimes. Ensure actions are carried out by visual impairment team. Ensure resources are enlarged to meet the child's needs. Liaise with Alder Hey Mental Health team to support the child's wellbeing.	Ongoing	VI team	SENCo Teaching staff	SLT	
Develop and support staff's understanding of learning difficulties.	SENCo to share the level need across school with all staff. Share the difficulties to		Termly	SENCo	SLT	

	learning for each Key Stage. Arrange training on self-regulation and sensory breaks. Arrange staff training linked to safer handling.					
Increase provision for pupils identified as having ASD (CI greatest area of need).	SENCo to audit and order appropriate resources and implement sensory room. Introduce new B Squared for assessment tracking. Autism training – accessing Complex Needs Team.	Autumn 2022 Spring 2023 Ongoing	Staff Meetings Twilights/INSETs	SENCo	SLT	
School trips accessible to all pupils	All school trips are risk assessed to ensure accessibility for all pupils. Any risks identified for individual pupils are assessed and systems/protocols amended to ensure accessibility.	Ongoing.	PPA	Teaching staff	SLT	
Access to information						
Make information accessible to parents/carers in alternative formats.	Ensure information is available in different formats (online, letters, enlarged font, verbally). Make parents/carers aware that information can be accessed in different formats. Liaise with Sefton SEND, to ensure hospital appointments, meetings and reports are all accessible.	Ongoing - website		SENCo Office staff	SLT	
Ensure that information about the	SENCo to update SIMS pack with disabilities and	Termly or more often	SENCo time	SENCo	HT	

needs of pupils is shared effectively throughout school.	SEN Area of Need Health Care Plans updated annually (or when significant changes occur) for pupils with medical needs. Health Care Plans shared with relevant staff and collated in the school office	if appropriate				
To make information on the schools SEN policy and local offer accessible for parents.	SENCo to update the SENS policy annually. SENCo to update the Medical Needs policy and SEND Information Report annually. Publish Sefton's Local Offer on the school website.	Annually	SENCo time	SENCo	HT	
Access to the premises						
Increase site access to meet the diverse needs of pupils, staff, parents/ carers, community users and visitors.	To liaise with SENIS and the complex needs team for advice on premises modifications if pupils with additional needs join the school. Ensure signs and symbols are accessible.	As appropriate	Meeting time when necessary.	SENCo Business Manager Caretaker	HT	
Care and Safety						
To ensure safe evacuation of pupils and staff	Regular fire checks to be made. Review ICHP and EHCP to ensure safe evacuation plans are in place for pupils with complex needs.	Half termly Ongoing	Time scheduled for evacuations. EHCP meeting time	Headteacher Caretaker Health and Safety supervisors SENCo Fire safety supervisor	HT HT	
Pupil's personal care needs are adhered to appropriately.	Ensure changing facilities are serviced as appropriate. Staff training to be delivered for	Ongoing Annually	Health and safety walks Inset	Caretaker Health and Safety supervisors SENCo	HT	

	EpiPen and Asthma.			School Nurse		
	Ensure planned building work for the Nursery has access to disabled toilet/changing facilities.	Spring 2023	Committee Meeting	Headteacher Finance / Committee Governors Caretaker	HT	