



Introduction

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, school governing bodies have had three key duties towards pupils with a disability, under part of the DDA:

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

This plan sets out the plan of the Academy Board to increase access to education for pupils with a disability in the three key areas required by the planning duties of the DDA:

- Increasing the extent to which pupils with a disability can participate in the curriculum;
- Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which pupils with a disability can take advantage of the education and associated services;
- Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who do not have a disability.

It is a requirement that the Academy's Accessibility Plan is resourced, implemented, reviewed and revised appropriately. This plan contains a set of action plans showing how the Academy will address the priorities identified in the plan.

Definition of disability

Disability is defined by the DDA in this way:

"A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

The purpose and direction of the school's plan: Vision and Values

At Christ the King Catholic Academy and St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy, we are committed to giving all our pupils and staff every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all pupils and staff. We promote the achievement and individuality of all our pupils irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. This plan is to be read in conjunction with the academy's Equality objectives, Teaching and Learning Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy and the Behaviour Policy, all published on the school's website.



We are also committed to offering an increase in access to the **curriculum** for pupils with a disability, ensuring that those with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are those pupils who do not have a disability; (If a school fails to do this they are in breach of duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the academy such as participation in 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.

We aim to be an inclusive school and actively seek to remove any barriers to learning that can hinder or exclude pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our children:

- Girls and boys
- Minority ethnic and faith groups
- Children needing support to learn English as an additional language
- Children with special educational needs
- Children who are vulnerable.

We acknowledge that there may be times when this is impossible or inappropriate, despite our wishes or best efforts.

Information from pupil and staff data

We currently have children and staff from a range of backgrounds with a variety of needs such as Asthma, diabetes, eczema, hearing impairment, visual impairment, and epilepsy.

We liaise closely with parents and professionals to ensure we provide the right care for their needs. We also collect information from Early Years and other educational settings prior to pupils starting in Reception (or at other times in the year) so that we are prepared for their needs when they begin school. We offer regular access to Occupational Health for our school staff.



MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE PLAN

We take advice on support for pupils with disabilities and work with experts to ensure children have the necessary support to include them fully in the life of the Academy.

The Action Plan ensures that:

- The Academy draws on the expertise of external agencies to provide specialist advice and support
- The SENDCo has an overview of the needs of pupils with a disability
- There are high expectations of pupils with a disability
- There is appropriate deployment and training of learning support staff
- Successful practice is shared within the Academy and between partner schools
- This plan is reviewed annually
- Pupils, staff, parents and directors are consulted on the outcome and progress of the accessibility plan ensuring its development

Improving the physical environment of the school

As set out in the Equality Act 2010 [paragraph 3 of section 10] school plan to prepare:

- Where appropriate, an increase to the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in school's curriculum
- Where appropriate, an improvement to the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services offered.
- Where appropriate, an improvement to the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled



Accessibility Plan

November 2023/24

Access to the Physical Environment				
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success criteria
Academy aware and acts upon the access needs of all children, staff, parents and directors with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create access plans for children, staff, parents and directors when required • Parents' questionnaire to establish access needs of parents/carers • Dissemination of relevant information to all staff, parents and pupils 	<p>Annually and as necessary</p> <p>Induction of new staff/directors</p> <p>Annually + on admittance of NRAs</p>	<p>DSA and SS</p> <p>Senior Leader and SS</p> <p>Senior Leader & SS</p>	<p>Healthcare plans in place for pupils, risk assessments in place for all others</p> <p>Staff and directors and Parent/carer access needs met</p> <p>Staff awareness of access issues</p> <p>Less near misses in car park entrance area</p> <p>Annual Accessibility</p>
Ensure all pupils/staff and visitors, with disability, can be safely evacuated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan in place for pupils with SEND as appropriate • Annual review to ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in the case of an emergency evacuation • Egress routes visual check done daily • Access to wheelchairs 	<p>Annually and as necessary</p> <p>Wheelchairs maintained annually</p>	<p>DSA</p> <p>Line mangers & SS</p>	<p>All pupils with disability and staff working alongside them are safe in the event of a fire.</p> <p>PEEP assessments completed and action taken for those with a disability</p> <p>Site safe for exit by pupils and staff with a disability</p>



Accessibility Plan

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	Christ the King only: Evacuation support using EVAC chair [available at SMCA]			
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Access to the Curriculum				
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success criteria
Ensure accessibility of access to IT resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative hardware/software resources available to ensure access to curriculum 	Annually and as necessary	DSA, TM or Class Teacher	Hardware and software meet needs of all pupils
Classroom teachers and support staff appropriately trained in supporting SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit of specific staff need through appraisal CPD provision on basis of need 	Annually and as necessary	DSA and SS	Increased staff confidence and quality of their SEND support
Ensure involvement of all pupils in full curriculum including PE and educational visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure venues are assessed for suitability of provision Information gathering and provision to parents/carers on accessible extra-curricular sports provision 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually and as necessary</p> <p>Completed as part of Annual Reviews</p>	<p>Class teachers/EVC</p> <p>DSA or PE Lead</p> <p>DSA</p>	<p>All children take full part in whole curriculum</p> <p>Parents/Carers aware of sports provision outside of school for pupils with a disability</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHCP support for additional support for extra-curricular clubs 			Increased participation of pupils with disability in extra-curricular provision
High quality T&L provision for pupils with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular targeted monitoring of achievement and T&L provision for pupils with SEND 	Ongoing	DSA	Increase in achievement of children with SEND

Access to Information				
Targets	Strategies	Timescale	Responsibility	Success criteria
Information to parents and carers is accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit access needs with Parents through questionnaire • Review need for provision of letters in other languages esp. Polish • Guidance to staff on accessible information 	Annually and as necessary	DSA DSA/NH & GN DSA	All parents and carers receive information in a format they are able to understand. Information provided by staff is clear presented, including to parents/carers with a SEND
Inclusive discussion of access to information in all annual reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review new format for sharing pupil's views in pupil SEN reviews 	Annually and as necessary [adapted to suit individual needs; peron centered approach].	DSA	Staff aware of parental/child preferred methods of communication



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Signage around the entrance area to welcome visitors to the Academy and make information more accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review with Parents thought questionnaire• Apply for appropriate leaflets from LA• Update signage in key areas	Annually and as necessary	SS, DSA, NH&GN, PTFA	Increased clarity of signage for all parents
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