

Saint Norbert's Catholic School

Accessibility Policy

Date Adopted: Summer 2015
Date of Review: Summer 2018



ST. NORBERT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Our Mission Statement

St. Norbert's strives to nurture and develop the whole child through
a

Love of God
Love of one another
Love of life itself

Article 3- The best interests of the child must be top priority in all actions regarding children.

"Each individual has a unique value in the sight of God regardless of race, gender or ability."

Introduction

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Equality Act 2010 and as amended by the Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils", issued by Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in July 2002.

Introduction

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):

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 SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has 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

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 environment of the school
- to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education 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 the school's accessibility plan is resourced, implemented and reviewed and revised as necessary. Below is a set of action plans showing how the school will address the priorities identified in the plan.

The purpose and direction of the school's plan: vision and values

The aim of this policy is to set out the commitment of the Governing Body of St. Norbert's Primary School to the principles of inclusive education and the responsibilities of the school team of staff and governors to ensure that all pupils, staff, parents and governors, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, disability, attainment or background are all treated inclusively. St. Norbert's Primary School provides teaching which meets National Curriculum and other statutory requirements. The school has regard to the Code of Practice when meeting pupils Special Educational Needs, including a range of disabilities and makes its policy known to parents. Provision determined in Educational Health Care plans are made for those pupils who have them. We believe there is an explicit link between inclusion and equal opportunities. This does not mean treating all pupils in the same way; rather it involves taking account of pupils varied life experiences and needs.

The aims and values of our school are inclusive, they reflect and inform our ethos and are embedded in the life of the school community.

St. Norbert's Primary School has high ambitions for all its pupils; we expect pupils with disability to participate and achieve in every aspect of school life. As such, we are committed to:

setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupils diverse needs
overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils. St. Norbert's Primary promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of differences such as ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, background or any other difference. We want all our children to feel welcome; we celebrate differences between them. We want to give all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children.

Further, we collect information from Early Years settings, so that we are prepared for children when they arrive in school, and liaise with parents and professionals involved with the children to ensure we provide the right care for their needs.

Activity

The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of Local Authority (LA) services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisors, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts. Teachers and

teaching assistants will have the necessary training to teach and support pupils who are disabled as the need arises.

Physical environment

The school will take account of the needs of pupils and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.

Provision of information

The school will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LEA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Breaches of the Policy

All breaches of the policy will be rigorously followed up using the appropriate procedures and reported to the Governing Body, diocese and LEA as required.

Signed _____

(Headteacher)

Signed _____

(for and on behalf of the Governing body)

Date _____

