

ST. MARY AND ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Policy on Disability Equality

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(see also Health & Safety; Administration of Medicines in Schools; Inclusion; Special Educational Needs)

School Values

Our School Values

*Be the best I can be in ...
Growing as a child of God.
Be the best I can be in ...
Loving learning.
Be the best I can be through ...
Caring.
Be the best I can be in ...
Achieving.
Be the best I can be through ...
Personal development.*

Helping each of us to be the best we can be by 'living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

Our Statement of School Values (2010) sets the ethos in which this policy is grounded: "We believe that St Mary and St Margaret's CE Primary School exists to enable every child to realise his or her potential to the fullest possible extent, whatever his or her particular needs and abilities."

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.
- 1.2 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2010 aims to end discrimination against people with disabilities and to improve access in all areas of life. Since 2002, it has been unlawful for schools and Local Education Authorities to discriminate against pupils with disabilities in admissions and exclusions, in education, and in associated services.
- 1.3 From 1st October 2004, it became unlawful to discriminate against people with disabilities by preventing them from having access to premises. Along with all other public buildings, our school is required to make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable access.
- 1.4 Our Accessibility Plan details the changes required to our buildings and to other aspects of our school, so that we fulfil our legal requirements, and remove barriers to inclusion for all pupils and staff with disabilities.
- 1.5 Disability is considered a protected characteristic under the [Equality Act 2010](#). Therefore it is unlawful for our school to discriminate directly or indirectly against a pupil on the basis of their disability.

Additionally, there are certain circumstances where school is expected to take positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils have equal access to education and the provision of services.

Discrimination is unlawful in relation to:

- **prospective pupils** – for example, in how a school formulates their admission arrangements;

- **pupils attending the school/college even if temporarily absent or excluded** – for example, in how a school has applied their behaviour policy to a certain situation;
- **former pupils** who have a continuing relationship with the education provider.

Unlawful discrimination can apply to every aspect of school life. It covers all school activities, such as:

- extra-curricular activities;
- leisure activities;
- after-school clubs;
- homework clubs;
- sports activities;
- school trips; and
- school facilities (for example, libraries and IT facilities).

2 What is disability?

2.1 Disability is defined in [Section 6 Equality Act 2010](#) as:

“a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”.

- **Normal day-to-day** – activities that people do on a regular basis, for example, this includes walking, dressing, cleaning or having a conversation.
- **Long-term** – the impairment should have lasted or should be expected to last at least a year.
- **Substantial** – not minor or trivial.
- **Physical impairment** – includes sensory difficulties such as visual or hearing impairments.
- **Mental impairment** – includes learning difficulties, autism, dyslexia, speech and language difficulties, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- Some **specified medical conditions**, such as HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer are all considered as disabilities, regardless of their effect.

Wearing glasses or temporary conditions such as drug or alcohol addiction are not counted as a disability.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 Our school aims to be an inclusive school. 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 all our children, and this of course includes pupils with disabilities.

- 3.2 We will ensure that pupils with disabilities have the same opportunities as non-disabled pupils to benefit from the education our school provides.
- 3.3 We will not treat a pupil with a disability less favourably than others because of the nature of his/her disability.
- 3.4 We will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that a pupil or member of staff with disabilities is not placed at a disadvantage.
- 3.5 We will do our best to anticipate the needs of a pupil or staff member with disabilities before s/he joins the school.

4 Removing barriers

- 4.1 The school must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils and members of staff and of the public are not disadvantaged.
- 4.2 Disabilities can limit the extent to which children are able to participate in the curriculum, and can impede the delivery of information. So, for example, if a child suffers from hearing loss, the teacher will always try and face the child when addressing the class, or, in severe cases, the teacher may wear a microphone and transmitter.
- 4.3 The Accessibility Plan covers the measures we have already taken, and are still taking, to improve our school.

5 The physical environment

- 5.1 We endeavour to improve provision for disabled pupils and staff by developing the physical environment of the school, within the limits of the resources available. We will take actions as required, for example:
 - access to the school, by installing setting-down and picking-up points, ramps, handrails and lifts;
 - movement around the building, e.g. by adaptations, such as improved colour schemes, for people with impaired sight;
 - accommodation within the building, by providing toilets for disabled pupils, sound-proofing for pupils with impaired hearing, and medical rooms;
 - furniture, by procuring rise-and-fall tables, sinks and ovens;
 - information and communication technology, by selecting appropriate hardware and software
 - signage, by putting it in clear print.

6 The curriculum

- 6.1 We use teaching strategies to enhance learning and participation in a broad and balanced curriculum. We find ways in which all pupils can take part in sport, music and drama. We plan our out-of-school activities and school trips in such a way that pupils with disabilities can participate.
- 6.2 We use language that does not offend, and we make staff and pupils aware of the importance of language.
- 6.3 Our library, reading books and other resources contain positive images of people with disabilities.
- 6.4 The school regularly reviews the way in which resources are matched to the needs of all the children. If necessary, to improve our provision, adjustments will be made to classroom organisation, the deployment of support staff, timetabling and staff training.
- 6.5 Many of the adjustments we make are dependent upon individual needs, and we are moving towards more individualised approaches.

- 6.6 We seek and respond to guidance from the parents and the children.

7 Information

- 7.1 Information normally provided in writing (lesson content, texts, library resources and information about school events) will be made available in alternative formats that are clear and user-friendly, such as Braille, audio tape, and large print, or it may be transmitted orally, or through lip-speaking or a form of sign language, or through a recognised symbol system, or through ICT.
- 7.2 We always take account of disabilities, be they the pupils' or their parents'. For example, communication with a parent who is visually impaired may need to be by telephone rather than by letter.

8 Staffing

- 8.1 When advertising posts, or interviewing applicants, or deciding on appointments, the governors and staff will follow the necessary procedures, and will not discriminate against people with disabilities.
- 8.2 Should a member of staff become disabled, the governing body will make reasonable adjustments to that person's employment arrangements, or to the premises, in order to enable them to continue in post.
- 8.3 All members of staff are entitled to professional development and training, and are expected to take advantage of a continuous programme of professional development.
- 8.4 This school will liaise with specialists to support individual pupils. Among these specialists are the following: physiotherapists, educational psychologists, speech therapists, doctors, the school nurse, social workers, and the staff of the voluntary and statutory agencies. We benefit from the LA's support advice and its provision through the SISS teams for children with sensory and/or physical difficulties.

9 Health and safety

- 9.1 Members of staff follow the school procedures both for the storage and for the administration of medicines to pupils. We also have procedures for when blood or other bodily substances have to be cleared away.
- 9.2 The school has members of staff qualified in giving first-aid treatment, and the emergency services will be called, should they be required.

10 Policy into practice

- 10.1 The governing body is responsible for the school's duty not to discriminate.
- 10.2 A named governor and a designated member of staff jointly discharge the responsibility of ensuring that we meet our obligation not to discriminate.
- 10.3 The headteacher will ensure that all members of staff are aware of their responsibilities to all pupils without exception.
- 10.4 All members of staff are fully committed to the policy of not discriminating against pupils, parents or staff with disabilities.
- 10.5 Parents and carers are asked to keep us informed about any relevant issues, so that we can work towards resolving them.

11 Monitoring

- 11.1 We have high expectations of all our pupils. We monitor a range of data to make sure that all pupils are making the best progress possible, and that no groups of pupils are underachieving.
- 11.2 We monitor:
- admissions;
 - attendance;
 - attainment;
 - progress;
 - exclusions;
 - rewards and sanctions;
 - parental and pupil questionnaires.
- 11.3 Evaluations based on these data are then reported to the governing body, and an action plan will be drawn up if necessary.

12 Monitoring and review

- 12.1 The governing body has a named governor with responsibility for matters of disability discrimination. It is this governor's responsibility to keep the governing body informed of any new regulations, and to ensure that the school regularly reviews its processes and procedures. The governor in question also liaises with the LA and other external agencies, to ensure that the school's procedures are in line with those of the LA.
- 12.2 The headteacher implements the school's disability non-discrimination policy on a day-to-day basis, and ensures that all staff are aware of the details of the policy as it applies to them.
- 12.3 The headteacher reports to governors annually on matters regarding disability discrimination.
- 12.4 This policy will be reviewed at any time on a request from the governors, or at least once every three years.

Signed: D. Ward

Date: May 2024