



St Stephen's RC Primary School

Accessibility Policy

Vision

'Every child, **Every** chance, **Every** day!'

Mission Statement

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'

John 13:34

Our Values - St Stephen's CARES

Compassion, **A**mbition, **R**ejoice, **E**xcellence, **S**ervice

C ompassion	<i>be compassionate in all of our actions</i>
A mbition	<i>be ambitious – better ourselves and those around us</i>
R ejoice	<i>be rejoiceful – celebrate the Good News</i>
E xcellence	<i>be excellent in everything we do – work hard always</i>
S ervice	<i>be a steward of the Lord – a service to the community</i>

Governor Approval	September 2025
Review date	September 2026

Schools' Duties around Accessibility for Disabled Pupils

The Equality Act 2010. Schools must implement accessibility plans which are aimed at:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improving the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils.

Reasonable Adjustment Duty

The Equality Act requires schools and LAs to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled pupils are:

- Not at a substantial disadvantage
- Enable pupils to participate in education and associated services. When deciding if a reasonable adjustment is necessary, schools need to consider potential impact on disabled pupils in terms of:
 - Time and effort
 - Inconvenience
 - Indignity and discomfort
 - Loss of opportunity and diminished progress.

Responsibility of Schools & LA

All providers make reasonable adjustments to avoid disadvantaged pupils with disabilities, but schools have an additional duty to plan for better access for disabled pupils.

- Schools are required to prepare accessibility plans for their individual schools and LA's are under a duty to prepare accessibility strategies covering maintained schools in their area.
- The nature and content of plans will depend on the size of school and resources available to the school.
- Important that schools and LA share information on their plans so that LA accessibility strategy and individual schools' accessibility plans inform each other.
- The reasonable adjustments duty and a wider and more strategic planning approach for schools are intended to complement each other.

Accessibility Plans Target 3 Areas

1. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum.
2. Improving the physical environment of schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by schools.
3. Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

Increasing the Extent to which Disabled Pupils can participate in the Curriculum

- Improve the accessibility of the curriculum, covering both teaching and learning, trips and visits, after school activities and extended school activities.
- Planning - All schools must “use their best endeavours” to provide “high quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised” and which should “meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people.” (SEN Code of Practice 1.24).
- Demonstrate what actions the school is taking to increase access to the curriculum, particularly for those pupils with SEND.

Improving the Physical Environment of Schools

- To enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- Reasonable adjustments may be needed to ensure equal access to the environment, including the creation of safe spaces, calming areas, and individual workstations.
- In order to ensure compliance with the Equality Act this is in reference to everyone accessing the building and not just the pupils.
- Support services from health, social care and education services are available to advise educational settings about suitable and reasonable adaptations to the inside and outside environment to help include pupils with SEND.

Accessibility at St Stephen’s RC Primary

St Stephen’s RC Primary has adopted this accessibility plan in line with the school’s special educational needs policy with the aim of ensuring that our school is physically, socially and academically inclusive, that all pupils have access to a full curriculum, and that all pupils are appropriately challenged.

Our special educational needs policy outlines the school’s provision for supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the school’s publication of equality information and objectives explains how we ensure equal opportunities for all our students, increased access to the curriculum, physical access to the school and access to information particular to students with SEND.

This accessibility plan provides an outline of how the school will manage this part of the SEND provision. Please refer to our special educational needs policy for an outline of our full provision to support pupils with SEND.

The table below is based on our current assessment of accessibility for pupils with SEND. It sets out priorities across the school in a number of areas and the relevant timescales for action to increase accessibility for pupils with SEND. Progress on these measures will be updated annually and reported to the governing body.

Outcome	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Evidence / Success Criteria	Review Date:
Section 1- Access to the Curriculum					
Through reasonable adaptations ensure that written recording is as accessible as possible for all pupils both at home and in school.	Roll out clicker 8 software throughout school so it is available on all devices. Also provide pupils with a free home user licence https://www.cricksoft.com/uk/clicker/8	Autumn	HT/ SENDCo / All staff	All pupils will have access to this software both at home and at school. Staff will be confident in using it and teaching its functions.	Spring 1
Section 2 – Access to the Environment					
Ensure pastoral support takes place in an appropriate environment that is fully accessible.	Rooms where pastoral support is given is suitable – sensory room, SEND base	Autumn	HT/ SENDCo / All staff	Rooms as adequate for use	Spring
Section 3 – Access to information					

<p>Through reasonable adaptations ensure our new school website is accessible to its audience. This will include current students, potential pupils and parents, as well as members of your local community.</p>	<p>Seek feedback from the school community including pupils, parent's staff in school.</p> <p>Consider the needs of the audience Within those groups consider the very different needs when it comes to accessing the Internet:</p> <p>Primary age students who haven't developed their reading skills yet or can't read small text.</p> <p>Those for whom English is a second language, including those with good spoken English but less well developed English reading skills.</p> <p>Those with dyslexia tendencies that benefit from a screen with a pale, off white background.</p> <p>Those of all ages with visual impairments that mean they need to use a screen reader to access your site.</p> <p>People with short-sightedness who can't read small text on a website.</p> <p>Parents who may be unable to read.</p>	<p>Autumn</p>	<p>HT/IT manager/ SENDCo</p>	<p>The following will be in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility to increase font size • Video or audio. • Translating tool • Appropriate screen contrast for those that are coloured blind and those with visual stress and/or Dyslexic tendencies. 	<p>Spring</p>
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	<p>Those with hearing impairments who can't hear the audio on any videos you post to your site.</p> <p>Those that are coloured blind who can't read text against a background without sufficient contrast, or struggle with specific colours.</p>			
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Other Relevant Legislation, Regulations & Guidance

- Children & Families Act (2014)
- The Special Educational Needs & Disability Regulations (2014)
- The SEND Code of Practice (revised January 2015)
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2014)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)
- Reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils (2012)
- Disability Discrimination Order (2006)
- The Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice: Protecting the vulnerable (2005)
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2 & 3
- DfES "Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils"
- Health Standards (England) Regulations 2003