

# ST AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - 2014 - 2017



*This Accessibility Plan is compliant with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.*

This accessibility plan ensures that we continue to improve all aspects of the physical environment of the school site, the curriculum and written information so that all students with a disability can take full advantage of the education and associated opportunities provided by St Aidan's Church of England High School.

### *Definition (Equality Act 2010)*

"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" Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments and also hidden impairments. In the DDA 'substantial' means 'more than minor or trivial'. 'Long-term' means has lasted or is likely to last more than 12 months.

The definition is broad and includes children with a wide range of impairments, including learning disabilities, dyslexia, autism, speech and language impairments, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), diabetes or epilepsy, where the effect of the impairment on the pupil's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities is adverse, substantial and long-term. All those with cancer or surviving cancer; HIV or Multiple Sclerosis are now included from the point of diagnosis.

A significant number of pupils are therefore included in the definition.

### *Normal day-to-day activity*

The test of whether the impairment affects normal day-to-day activity is whether it affects one or more of the following:

- mobility;
- manual dexterity;
- physical co-ordination;
- continence;
- ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
- speech, hearing or eyesight;
- memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand;
- perception of risk of physical danger;
- eating and drinking

The Accessibility Plan will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes, and provide a projected plan for the four year period ahead of the next review date. This plan reflects new statutory requirements for the setting of Equality Objectives.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We are committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all students, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to reinforcing our culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school. St Aidan's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for students with disabilities, staff and visitors to the school in a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

### **The Accessibility Plan will contain relevant and timely actions to:**

*Increase access to the curriculum for students with a disability, ensuring that students with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are our students 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 school 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 students in accessing the curriculum.*

### **Curriculum – The Current Position**

We believe that we have made good progress in the following areas:

- Tracking and monitoring information is available for all staff
- Advanced planning for students based on good information from primary partners.
- Liaison with external services and agencies regarding individual pupils (physical, sensory, behaviour)
- High quality Individual Provision Maps
- Targeted intervention for individuals
- Ensuring that Access Arrangements are made for external examinations (Extra time / Reader/ Amanuensis, laptops etc.)
- Developing outstanding learning and teaching across the school.
- Using 'P Scales' where appropriate to measure the progress and achievement of specific students and set attainable targets with high expectations
- Ensuring that school visits and trips are accessible for all students

- Using a range of teaching methods and styles to facilitate access for all students – e.g. appropriate use of language; questioning techniques; pair work; group work; learning techniques to suit all learning styles – visual/ auditory/ kinaesthetic, etc.
- Setting of pupils in KS3 subjects.
- Intervention programmes for particular groups
- Peer listening programme for year 7 pupils
- Signer for all Hearing Impaired parents for parents' evenings.
- Foundation Learning Programme established (an alternative curriculum) made up of mixed age groupings.
- **Priorities for 2014-17**
- To work with the EMS teaching team at NYCC to ensure our curriculum is accessible for students with disabilities
- To encourage students to use an alternative means of recording by using iPads and Surface Pro with specific software that supports a student's disability, voice recorders and other forms of technology.
- To encourage students to participate in student leadership opportunities such as Junior Sports Leaders and Pupil Council
- To encourage students to access extra -curricular activities including school trips
- To develop the range of extra -curricular activities through student voice and student council
- To ensure that students have access to quality careers education, information, advice and guidance.
- To ensure that students, staff, parents, governors are consulted to ensure the development of the Accessibility Plan.

*Improve access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary - this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe;*

### **Physical Access – The Current Position**

- The building is wheelchair accessible with a lift to facilitate movement between the floors.
- Learning Support Department based in the centre of school.
- 4 Disabled Parking Spaces in the main car park
- All parents are asked if they require access arrangements for Parents 'Evening
- Accessible toilet facilities available in the school.
- Space for small group work and individual work for targeted learners in Learning Support.
- A physical environment that is safe and welcoming.
- Lockers available for specific pupils to store bags and equipment

- Handrails on stairs
- Clear visual signage
- Yellow Strips on stairs
- Evacuation Procedures in place

### **Priorities for 2014-17**

- To review the site annually using the Local Authority's accessibility framework.
- To address any concerns arising from the annual site inspection.
- To review the allocation, availability and state of repair of disabled car parking bays on site.
- To provide annual training for staff in relation Autistic Spectrum Condition, Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment
- To consider an enhanced fire alarm system for those students with hearing impairment
- To consider the provision of an induction loop in the main reception.
- To consider individual amplification in the Main Hall.

*Improve the delivery of written information to students, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, visual timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.*

### **Written information -The Current Position**

- Photo records are produced for identified students
- All information from Parents Information Evenings is placed on the website
- The Accessibility Plan is placed on the website
- Alternative means of recording features in Teaching and learning Profiles
- Signers are used for parents when required
- Translators and interpreters are used in parents Evenings when required
- Private rooms are available for Parents Evenings when required.
- Dedicated Teaching Assistants produce enlarged and adapted work.

### **Priorities for 2014-17**

- To liaise with the specialist teaching service to ensure that written information is accessible for students and that enlarged books are available as required.

The Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum and written information. Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, Strategies and documents:

- Curriculum Policy
- Equality information and Objectives
- Health & Safety Policy (including off-site safety)
- Learning Support Policy
- School Behaviour Policy
- School Development Plan
- School Prospectus and Sixth Form Prospectus

Equality information will be reviewed as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.  
The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governors' Welfare Committee.

October 2014

Review: October 2015

