



# THE FEDERATION OF ST. EDMUND'S AND ST. PATRICK'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## ACCESSIBILILTY POLICY

<i>Date Policy Approved:</i>	<i>September 2024</i>
<i>Date Endorsed by Governors:</i>	<i>September 2024</i>
<i>Date of Next Review:</i>	<i>September 2027</i>

**We come to a Roman Catholic School and so believe that Jesus was born, died and rose again for everyone. We aim to help, encourage and show God's way to our families, making sure that our Catholic traditions and faith are kept alive. Each year at school, we learn a little bit more about our faith so that we can grow to love God and each other more.**

***At our schools, we seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We remember this when putting our policies into practice. Therefore, this policy will reflect the Catholic identity and mission of our schools and the values it proclaims.***

The Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's R.C. Primary Schools we aim to treat all stakeholders, including pupils, prospective pupils, staff, governors and other members of the school community favorably and, whenever possible, takes steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage. The schools aim to work closely with disabled pupils, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove or minimize any potential barriers to learning, which puts them at a disadvantage, but allows them to learn, achieve and participate fully in school life. The Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in school life. The schools are active in promoting positive attitudes in both schools and in planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils. As part of the federations continued communication with parents, carers and other stakeholders we continually look at ways to improve accessibility through data collection, questionnaires and parental discussions.

## **The purpose of the Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to show how the Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils. Under the Equality Act 2010 all schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law means that "schools cannot lawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation". The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools.

The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Headteacher.

## **Definition of Disability**

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 a normal day to day activity.

Under the [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled pupil faces in comparison with non-disabled pupils. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises.

## **What will the accessibility plan do**

1. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality and Diversity Policy, the schools SEND Information Report and the SEND policy. All these policies can be accessed on the school's website.
2. The Federation of St Edmund's and St Patrick's is committed to providing an environment that enables a full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, 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 developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
3. The St Edmund's Accessibility Plan and the St Patrick's Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:
  - Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability are as prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils. This encompasses 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 aides and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum with a reasonable timeframe.
  - Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvement to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable timeframe.
  - Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events; the information should be made available to various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.
4. Whole school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness of equality issues for staff and governors to comply fully with the Equality Act 2010.
5. This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
  - Behaviour Policy
  - Equality Policy
  - Health and Safety Policy
  - SEND Policy and SEND Information Report
  - School Improvement Plan
6. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
7. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through Governing Body committees and reported to the Full Governing Body.
8. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.