

Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils

St Luke's CE Primary School



Last reviewed on: 5th September 2022

**Next review due
by:** 5th September 2025

Written by: Sam Ray

Statement of intent

At St Luke's CE Primary we believe that in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- Promoting desired behaviour.
- Promoting self-esteem, self-discipline, proper regard for authority, and positive relationships based on mutual respect.
- Ensuring equality and fair treatment for all.
- Praising and rewarding good behaviour.
- Challenging and disciplining misbehaviour.
- Providing a safe environment free from disruption, violence, discrimination, bullying and any form of harassment.
- Encouraging positive relationships with parents.
- Developing positive relationships with pupils to enable early intervention.
- A shared approach which involves pupils in the implementation of the school's policy and associated procedures.
- Promoting a culture of praise and encouragement in which all pupils can achieve
- Reasonable and proportionate sanctions will be used where a pupil's behaviour falls below the standard that is expected, alongside support to prevent recurring misbehaviour.

Our Vision

We will provide a loving, trusting and engaging community rooted in Christian Values, where everyone is respectful and is encouraged to develop as learners, maximise their talents and fully achieve their God-given potential.

Our Equality Statement

At St Luke's CE Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.

We believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

We believe this policy relates to the following legislation:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA)
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015

We believe that we work hard to ensure that the culture and ethos of this school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treat one another with respect. This school provides pupils with the opportunity to experience understand and value diversity.

In accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) this policy and plan has been devised. It also draws on the guidance set out in "Accessing School: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils" issued by the DFES in July 2002.

We welcome children with disabilities and we value the knowledge and views of parents regarding their child's disability and how it affects their ability to carry normal activities.

We believe disability is:

'A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This means that in general the person must have an impairment that is either physical or mental; the impairment must have adverse effects which are substantial; the substantial adverse effects must be long-term; and the long-term substantial adverse effects must be effects on normal day-to-day activities.' (Equality Act 2010)

We have a duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, eliminate disability related harassment, promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage disabled people to participate in school life.

We believe it is our duty to prepare and publish a disability equality scheme that will outline accessibility to the school premises and its facilities, accessibility to the curriculum, accessibility of educational services, provision of training for school personnel and pupils which result in improved outcomes for disabled pupils,

parents/carers and school personnel in all aspects of school life.

We are proud of our ethos of support, collaboration and respect for one another. We strive to create a safe caring environment for all our pupils to experience success, happiness and excellence. All school users will benefit from the school's disability equality scheme as it will allow them to take full benefit of the opportunities that this school offers.

We are committed to providing a fully accessible environment which values and includes all pupils, school personnel, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.

In response to the Access Audit undertaken by the local authority we have in place an Accessibility Action Plan designed to increase the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school, to make improvements in the provision of information and to increase access to the curriculum. The plan is as follows:

Development area	Targets	Strategies	Outcome	Timeframe and monitoring
Delivery of the curriculum	Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils	SENCO to carry out an audit of resources to ensure that lessons are planned to meet the needs of all pupils in the class.		Ongoing – half termly monitoring
	To continue to train staff to enable them to meet the needs of children with a range of SEN.	SENCo to review the needs of children and provide training for staff as needed.	Staff are able to enable all children to access the curriculum.	Ongoing

	To ensure that all children are able to access all out-of school activities. eg. clubs, trips, residential visits etc.	Review of out of school provision to ensure compliance with legislation.	All providers of out-of-school education will comply with legislation to ensure that the needs of all children are met.	Review every term when new clubs are arranged
	To provide specialist equipment to promote participation in learning by all pupils.	Assess the needs of the children in each class and provide equipment as needed. eg. special pencil grips, headphones, writing slopes etc.	Children will develop independent learning skills	Completed half termly when provision maps are completed.
The physical environment of the school	Maintain safe access for visually impaired people	Check condition of yellow paint on step edges regularly Check exterior lighting is working on a regular basis Put black/yellow hazard tape on poles at end of play equipment to help visually impaired child as required	Visually impaired people feel safe in school grounds. Yellow edges to be re-done as needed throughout the school year. Light to be fitted near front door. Child knows where equipment ends	Termly audit through walk around school
Provision of information in other formats	Signage around school to be in other languages and braille if that becomes required	Plans for a welcome sign in reception – English and Turkish We will place braille signs to the right of all	ALL People feel they are welcome in school	Ongoing

		doors if we have a visually impaired member of the school community		
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We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aim

- To ensure that all school personnel with disabilities are treated fairly in regard to recruitment, performance management, promotion, staff development, teaching environment and access to the school premises.
- To reduce and eliminate barriers to access the curriculum and to have full participation in the school community for pupils, prospective pupils and our adult users with a disability.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for special educational needs and disabilities (SENCo);

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- a duty to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and with the Disability Rights Commission Code of Practice (2002);
- a duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA) to publish an Accessibility Plan but not to:
 - ☐ discriminate against disabled pupils in our admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
 - ☐ treat disabled pupils less favourably
 - ☐ take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- the responsibility to work with parents to ensure the full needs of each individual child are met as we value parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out normal activities;
- a duty respect the child's and parents right to confidentiality;
- the responsibility of providing all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum which is differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles;
- the responsibility endorse the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework which underpins the development of a more inclusive curriculum by:
 - ☐ setting suitable learning challenges
 - ☐ responding to pupil's diverse learning needs
 - ☐ overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual and groups of pupils
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated Equalities governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- work closely with the Equal Opportunities Committee;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- in conjunction with the Governing Body devise a new plan every three years;
- oversee the implementation of the policy, Scheme and Plan;
- annually review and adjust the Accessibility Action Plan;
- organise ongoing awareness raising and training for school personnel and governors in the matter of disability discrimination;
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- report to the Governing Body on the procedures in place for school personnel with disabilities;
- inform the Governing Body on the training programme for school personnel;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the:
 - ☐ physical environment of the school
 - ☐ provision of information
 - ☐ delivery of the curriculum by:
 - monitoring learning and teaching through observing lessons
 - monitoring planning and assessment
 - speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

Role of the Nominated Governor

The Nominated Governor will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and the coordinator;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- attend training related to this policy;
- report to the Governing Body every term;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- liaise with the SENCo to discuss what changes are needed to the physical environment of the school, to the provision of information and to the delivery of the curriculum;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour within and outside school and not to undermine fundamental British values;
- work in partnership parents and carers keeping them up to date with their child's progress and behaviour at school.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- inform the school of their child's disability;
- share their knowledge of their child's disability and how it affects the normal activities of their child;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;

- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

Training

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on induction which specifically covers:
 - ☐ All aspects of this policy
 - ☐ Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Accessibility Plan for Pupils
 - ☐ Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
 - ☐ Disabled Access
 - ☐ Equal opportunities
 - ☐ Inclusion
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.