

The Catholic Schools of the Waveney Valley

Accessibility Plan for St Benet's

2020 - 2023



Reviewed by: Sam Barlow

Approved by: Governing Body

Date: 6th July 2021

Next Review: July 2023

The SEN and Disability Act 2001 extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover education. Since September 2002, the Governing Body has had three key duties towards disabled pupils, under Part 4 of the DDA

1. Not to treat disabled pupils less favourable for reasons related to their disability
2. To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils, so they are not at a substantial disadvantage
3. To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils

This plan sets out the proposals of the Head Teacher and Governing Body of the school to increase access to education for disabled pupils in the three areas required by the planning duties in the DDA:

- a. Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum
- b. Improving the environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services
- c. Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information, which is provided in writing for those pupils unable to access written instructions or information

The School

St Benet's Catholic Primary School is a mixed mainstream school for pupils aged 4 year to 11 years old. The school comprises of two buildings (referred to as the main school and Early Years building).

The main school is over two floors with disabled access via ramps into the side of the building and directly into Class 2. There is no lift and the main pupil toilets are down a step, so a disabled toilet is available through the school hall. The school hall – where lunch is served and Breakfast Club takes place– is accessible. Class 2 (Years 1 & 2) is on the ground floor and Class 3 (Years 3 & 4) and Class 4 (Years 5 & 6) is on the first floor.

The Early Years building has disabled access via a ramp and has a disabled toilet available with a pull cord/alarm for assistance.

The school playgrounds and the playing field are accessible to anyone in a wheelchair.

Our Aims

We aim to provide:

1. Full access to the curriculum in whatever form is necessary
2. Full access to the physical environment
3. Full access to information in whatever form is necessary

Current Arrangements

When a pupil starts at St Benet's their parent is asked to complete a personal details form which asks them to identify any diagnosed condition.

For long term physical conditions which may require a wheelchair or problems climbing stairs the Early Years building which houses our Reception age children (and sometimes Year 1) has suitable disabled access and toilet facilities to be able to accommodate a pupil with mobility issues.

However, as the main school being is on two levels we would accommodate long term mobility issues by allocating the current Class 2 classroom to the cohort with the disabled pupil in and moving the teacher as appropriate at the change of school year. This would mean that the cohort was in the same classroom for five years while the teachers changed, but would ultimately allow us to accommodate a child with mobility problems. It does mean however, that we could in reality only have one pupil with mobility issues enrolled at the school at any one time due to the constraints surrounding access.

The Early Years building could not be used for other year groups as it is set up and arranged solely for the use of Reception/KS1 children who require more room for more practical learning experiences.

For a pupil in KS2 who has temporary mobility issues and requires a wheelchair (e.g. a broken leg) we would accommodate them by providing them with a desk in Class 2 and teaching assistant support made available. The teacher would set work for them as usual and where possible a link to live lessons in the classroom may be set up; the teacher will check throughout the day that progress is being made.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability

Please see our SEND Policy for information about how children with special educational needs are supported at St Benet's.