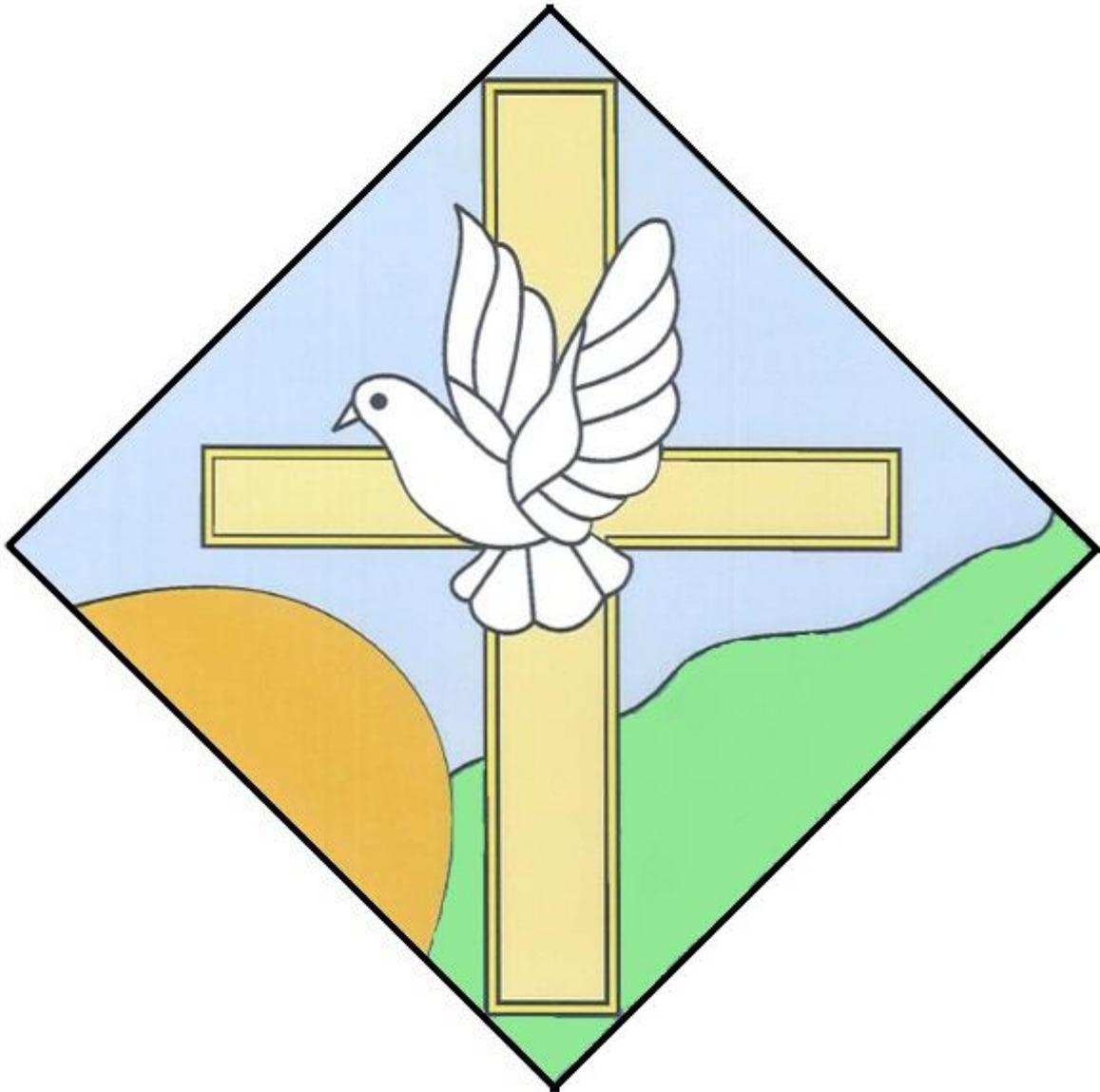




ACCESSIBILITY POLICY



Mission Statement

Promoting high quality education, love, care and forgiveness of others as taught to us by Jesus and our Patron Saints.

Statement of Intent

Under the Equality Act 2010 Academies should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “Academies cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for Academies. 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 Principal. At St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy the Plan will be monitored by the Principal and Senior Leadership team and evaluated by both Governors’ committees. The current Plan will be attached to this document.

At St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that children should feel happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

1) St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon current information about pupils, parents, staff and governors of the Academy. The document will be used to advise other Academy planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date.

2) The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the Academy’s Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the Academy website. We understand that the Local Authority will monitor the Academy’s activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular Schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

3) St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, 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 developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the Academy.

4) St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the Academy 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, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as, equally, prepared for life as are the able-bodied pupils; (If a Academy fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the Academy such as participation in after-Academy clubs, leisure and cultural activities or Academics visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;

Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the Academy, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the Academy 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 Academy and Academy events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

5) St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy Accessibility Plan relates to the key aspects of physical environment, curriculum, medical need and information.

6) Whole Academy training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness for staff and governors on equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010.

7) This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following Academy policies, strategies and documents:

Behaviour for Learning Policy

Equitability Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Academy Development Plan

Special Educational Needs Policy

Business Continuity Plan

8) The Accessibility Plan for physical accessibility relates to the access of the Academy, which remains the responsibility of the governing body. It may not be feasible to undertake all of the works during the life of this accessibility plan and therefore some items will roll forward into subsequent plans. An accessibility audit will be completed by the Academy prior to the end of each period covering this plan in order to inform the development of a new Accessibility Plan for the on-going period.

9) Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when Academy 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.

10) The Accessibility Plan will be published on the Academy website.

11) The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Buildings and Finance Committee and Academy Effectiveness Committee

12) The Academy will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.

13) The Accessibility Plan may be monitored by Ofsted during inspection processes in relation to Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Aims and Objectives

Our Aims are:

To increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability

To Improve and maintain access to the physical environment

To improve the delivery of written information to pupils

To fully meet the medical needs of children in our care

Our objectives are detailed in the Academy Development Plan

Current Good Practice

We aim to ask about any SEND, additional or medical needs in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents and carers of children already at the Academy, we collect information regularly and have an open door policy to enable parents to share views or concerns; we also have parents' evenings twice a year.

Physical Environment

ALL pupils have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities. Some aspects of extra-curricular activities present particular challenges, for example: lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after-Academy clubs for pupils with physical impairments, Academy trips for pupils with medical needs. All children can access the parts of the Academy that they need to with little or no adult assistance.

Curriculum

Some areas of the curriculum present particular challenges, for example: PE for pupils with a physical impairment. Staff are very aware of how they can adapt the curriculum or activity to allow all children to take part and the Academy do their utmost to provide resources and equipment to allow them to do so. Other issues affecting the participation of pupils, for example medical need are addressed through the relevant policies; administration of medicines, the provision of intimate care etc.

Information

Different forms of communication are made available to enable all pupils to express their views and to hear the views of others. Access to information is planned, with a range of different formats available.

Access Audit

The Academy is a two storey building with wide corridors and several access points from outside. Classroom exits have a stepped area outside but a ramp will be made available for use as required. A wheelchair ramp is situated at the main entrance and again a ramp will be made available for the internal stepped area immediately in the entrance foyer for access to the ground floor toilets.

Main parking for parents is in a public car park on the Academy approach road, with visible notices warning parents that cars are parked at the owner's risk. Access to the staff car park with ready access to the main entrance of the Academy could be facilitated if required. The Academy has internal emergency signage and escape routes are clearly marked.

Management, Coordination and Implementation

We will consult with experts when new situations regarding pupils with disabilities are experienced.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team will work closely with the Local Authority, Umbrella Trust and the Archdiocese.

Access for Parents/carers and Visitors with Disabilities

Car Parking Provision

Car parking provision on our site is very limited and we share these facilities with the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission.

The main entrance is via the rural track through Scadbury Park, this entrance is suitable for both cars and pedestrians, and there is an alternative pedestrian entrance at the top of Beddington Road. The barrier control at both entrances is accessible. There is accessible parking and every effort is made to accommodate individual needs; if you are able to request in advance for disabled parking this will assist us. Blue badges must be clearly displayed at all times. The disabled parking bay is within 50 meters of the point of entry, clearly designated and signposted. The pedestrian route is clearly defined and well lit.

Once on site please park taking into consideration children who may be walking to the pedestrian pathways, the emergency exits of the building and the access an emergency vehicle may require.

Please do not park on the grassed areas at the front of the Academy

This Policy is reviewed by:

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy Governing Body

It was last reviewed in: March 2018

It will next be review in: March 2021

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors Date: _____