

# Policy Heading



<b>Date Agreed</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Review Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2029

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## **The aims of the school**

1. Ensure that our school is a happy, secure and supportive place, where everyone is valued.
2. Provide a rich, varied and stimulating curriculum, which is accessible to all.
3. Encourage a love of learning and the desire to expand their knowledge and skills throughout life.
4. Foster spiritual awareness and a sense of awe and wonder.
5. Develop the understanding and skills needed to become responsible and effective members of the school and as part of the wider community.

This policy will set out how these aims will be practically realised by staff and governors.

## **Rationale**

This policy reflects the values and philosophy of St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School in relation to Accessibility. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate.

School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting on progress of the Accessibility Plan over a 3-year period.

This policy, written including a range of stakeholders in its development, was agreed upon by the Governing Body and is distributed for the information of: All teaching staff, teaching assistants and support staff.

A copy of the policy is available on the school website and paper copies are available upon request for all interested parties.

## **Key Objectives**

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which pupils with a disability can access the curriculum
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improve the availability of accessible information to pupils with a disability

Our school aims to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

## Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school's aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school's SEN policy;
- The school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA)
  - ~ not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
  - ~ not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
  - ~ to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002).

The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her ability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality.

1. We are committed to providing an accessible environment which 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 challenging negative attitudes about disability and accessibility and to developing a culture of awareness, tolerance and inclusion.
2. St Cuthbert's Junior School plans, over time, to ensure the accessibility of provision for all pupils, staff and visitors to the school.
3. An Accessibility Plan has been drawn up to cover a three-year period.

## Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of [schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#) and the Department for Education (DfE) [guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010](#).

The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse effect on their ability to undertake normal day to day activities.

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.

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

- Improve access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary. This covers reasonable adjustments to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.
- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding and making reasonable adjustments to 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 school fails to do this they are in breach of the DDA). This covers all aspects of teaching and learning. It also covers the provision of specialist aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum.
- Improve and make reasonable adjustments to 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 in various preferred formats within a reasonable time frame.

The Action Plan for physical accessibility relates to the Access Audit of the School, which is undertaken regularly. The audit will need to be revisited prior to the end of each first three-year plan period in order to inform the development of the new Plan for the following period.

Information about our Accessibility Plan will be published in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents (statutory). The Plan will be monitored within Governor Committee meetings. The Plan will also be monitored by Ofsted as part of their inspection cycle.

## St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School Accessibility Action Plan 2026

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School  
Improving the Physical Access at St Cuthbert's Junior School**

**An Access Audit was carried out by Head Teacher/Health and Safety lead and a number of recommendations made:**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead people</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1.1 Signage	Appropriate signs for visually impaired and dyslexic friendly signage.	All pupils will be aware of all areas within school and the outside area.	Signage changed as and when it needs replacing	HT to source quotes for signage and site manager to position them	£400

**Progress towards Action**

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**  
**Improving the Physical Access at St Cuthbert's Junior School**

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1.2 Transition	Physical transition indicators between main areas of the school. (see signage above)	All pupils will be aware of all areas within school and the outside area.	Academic year 2026	HT to source quotes for signage and site manager to position them	£400
<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					
1.3	To increase the size of the disable parking space and remove the curb for wheelchair access	All pupils with a disability will be able to access the school site with ease.	Academic year 2027	HT and site manager	To be quoted
<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					

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<b>1.4</b> Access to key areas of the outside environment	Construct pathways to give wheelchair access to farm and conservation area	All children will be able to take part in activities in all areas of school.	Academic year 2025-2027	HT/Health and Safety lead to identify where paths are required.	HT to sources quotes for suitable pathways. £1500
<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					
<b>1.5</b> Maintain Safe Access around exterior of school	Ensure that pathways are kept clear of vegetation. Make sure grounds maintenance contractors know which areas to prioritise.	People with a disability to move unhindered along exterior pathways	Ongoing	HT and site manager	Cost included in ground`s maintenance

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<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					
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<b>1.6</b> flashing light system supplementing audible fire alarm	Gradually update fire alarm system with supplementing flashing light system over time	Those with a hearing disability will be alerted to a fire alarm	Ongoing – as needed	HT and site manager	To be quoted
<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**  
**Improve the availability of accessible information**

**An audit was carried out by the Head Teacher/SENCo and a number of recommendations made:**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead people</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>2.1</b> Availability of written material in alternative formats	DH / HT/ office Staff aware of the services available for converting written information into alternative formats. The school will be able to provide written information in different formats when requested for individual purposes	Disabled people aware of facilities through signs and newsletters etc. Improve availability of information for parents through promotion of regularly updated school website and external notice board.	Ongoing as needed	HT/Health and Safety lead	£500

**Progress towards Action**

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**  
**Improve the availability of accessible information**

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<b>2.2</b> Enhance communication in office/reception area for the hearing impaired	Hearing loop added to main reception with training for staff	Improved communication and accessibility to information for all	2026	HT	£900

**Progress towards Action**

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**  
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<b>2.3</b> Make available school brochures, school newsletters and other information for parents in alternative formats when specifically requested.	Review all current school publications and promote the availability in different formats when specifically requested e.g. alternative languages/braille/oversize	All school information available for all who request it.	Ongoing	HT/Office staff	Explore providers for brochure costs

**Progress towards Action**

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**

**Improve the extent to which the pupils can access the curriculum**

**An audit was carried out by the Head Teacher/SENCo and a number of recommendations made:**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead people</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>3.1</b> Classrooms are organised to promote the participation and independence of all pupils.	Review and implement a preferred layout of furniture and equipment to support the learning process in individual class bases. Ensure that dyslexic friendly classroom signage is used on displays.	Lessons start on time without the need to adjust to accommodate the needs of individual pupils. Pupils can access information from classroom display to support their learning.	ongoing	HT/DHT/all staff	£100

**St Cuthbert's C of E Junior School**

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<b><u>Progress towards Action</u></b>					
<b>3.2</b> Audit of pupil needs and staff training to meet those needs.	Review the specific needs for pupils living with a disability, in terms of basic daily living skills, relationships and future aspirations.	Teachers are aware of the relevant issues and can ensure that this group has equality of access to life preparation learning. The use of other professional partners has been made available.	Ongoing	HT/DHT/all staff	£180