

St Margaret's Academy Accessibility Plan 2017 – 2018

1. Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to show how St Margaret's Academy intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of the school for disabled pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors. This plan forms part of the Disability Equality Scheme and sets out how the Governing body will improve equality of opportunity for disabled pupils.

The Equality Act, 2010 states that all schools must have an accessibility plan aimed at:

- Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improving the physical environment of the school to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided
- Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

In drawing up the accessibility plan, the school has set the following priorities:

- To provide safe access throughout the school for all school users
- To ensure the teaching and learning environment and the resources used are suitable for all staff and pupils
- To provide training to all staff regarding the needs of disabled people

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to implement this scheme in a manner which promotes the inclusive ethos of the school

2. Definition of disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as when a person has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities'.

3. This plan considers the following areas as identified in the introduction:

a) Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum

The school SEND policy ensures that staff assess, plan and review provision for pupils with disabilities and special educational needs. The Pastoral team provides support for pupils and supports teachers in implementing strategies for improving pupils' behaviour and access to learning.

The school works closely with specialist services including:

- Our hearing support centre team for hearing impaired pupils
- Torbay SEN team
- The educational psychology team
- Occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- Speech and language therapy service
- Mayfield Outreach
- Chestnut Alternative provision
- Primary mental health services

b) Improving access to the physical environment of the school

This covers all areas of the physical environment such as external areas, buildings, fixtures and fittings. The aim is to continue to enhance the environment to meet the needs of all pupils and ensure they have access to all aspects of education offered at St Margaret's Academy.

c) Improving the delivery of information to disabled persons

The school is aware of services available through the local authority for converting written information into alternative formats. In addition, our school website has facilities to ease access - translation facility, enlarged fonts etc.

Each classroom at St Margaret's Academy is equipped with a Sound Field system which enables our hearing impaired children to access their work in the classrooms. BSL and sign language interpretation can be provided to visitors to the school (either adults or children), should they require it.

This accessibility plan will be reviewed annually.

Objectives for 2017-18

Priority	Lead people	Strategy / action	Resources	Time frame	Success Criteria
Monitor and service the school soundfield system	Teacher of the Deaf ICT technicians	Maintenance check on all soundfield systems Assess what needs to be updated or serviced Organise quotes	Cost of engineer / maintenance work Possible replacement of faulty equipment Longer term the system may need to be updated	Ongoing	The sound field system will be well maintained and working efficiently.
Improve accessibility to the disabled toilet for wheel chair users	Site services manager	Clear the toilet in the FS block to allow access		ASAP	
Appropriate use of paints to benefit pupils and / or visitors with visual impairment	Site services manager SENCO	Follow advice on contrasting paint for external steps	Cost of paint Build into maintenance budget	In place and ongoing	Steps are safer for pupils / adults with visual impairment. Areas maintained on a regular basis