

ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Accessibility Policy and Plan

2023-2026

Our English Martyrs' School community aims to follow the example of Christ in welcoming, recognising, fostering, and developing each individual as a unique and special gift of GOD with value and dignity.

This plan is drawn up in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 which requires schools to draw up, publish, implement and review a written plan to

- increase access to the curriculum for disabled pupils;
- improve the physical environment of the school to increase access for disabled pupils
- improve the accessibility and availability of information to disabled pupils

The Act 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.'

This plan recognises what is already in place in our school and includes future steps we will take.

Future steps have been identified as part of the process of drawing up, implementing and reviewing the School Improvement Plan, updating the School SEND Report, regular and ongoing consideration of existing and potential barriers to learning and to access to the school and to information and ongoing engagement with parents.

Access to the curriculum and participation in school activities

This involves increasing the extent to which pupils with a disability can participate in the school curriculum and activities.

The school has already:

- Provided training on inclusion and adaptability to teachers and teaching assistants.
- Set up a purposely designed continuous intervention room for children with ASD or other severe needs.
- Introduced resources for the use of pupils with fine motor skill difficulties.
- Ensured that provision is made for children with disabilities in all of the trips undertaken by the school.
- Provided specific training for staff in different year groups on supporting children with a social communication and speaking impairments.

During 2023-2026 the school plans to:

- Provide further training for teachers so as to implement branch mapping for children who need these smaller steps to track and capture progress.
- Provide support and training for staff where children need to access the curriculum from a pre-key stage so that their learning experiences are appropriate to their stage of development eg. accessing Early Years curriculum objectives for children who are in KS2.
- Further improve the provision and environment in the continuous provision room.
- Provide training for support staff to support children with SEND during class PE lessons as well as offering additional PE sessions where this will be most beneficial to pupils with additional needs or a disability.
- Provide bespoke support and training for staff to support children with specific medical needs so that these needs can be safely and successfully managed within the school setting.

Access to the Physical Environment

This involves improving the physical environment of the school to improve access to the building and its facilities for all members of the school community

The school has already:

- Made adaptations in a number of classrooms to improve the layout and the environment to be more child friendly and safe.
- Made plans to accommodate a class on the ground floor in the Romero Room in case this is needed when a child can only attend school in a wheelchair.

During the 2023 – 2026 the school plans to:

- Investigate the facilities in the playground for children with additional needs so that there are opportunities to engage children socially at less structured times and with their peers.
- Source additional PE resources/equipment for children with additional physical needs so that they have full access to all sports.
- Source specialist furniture to meet the needs of children with physical and medical requirements so that children can learn safely and securely in the school setting,

Access to Information

This involves improving the delivery of information to any member of the school community who has a disability. The school has already:

- Appointed a parental contact person to support parents who may need support outside of school to care for their children. Eg: establish contact with support agencies, interpreting etc.
- SENCO and SLT regularly communicate with staff, parents and others in the wider school community to provide support as and when needed.
- Provide support to families with English as an additional language, particularly those from a Spanish speaking background by interpreting for them in relation to accessibility issues and other matters.

During the 2023- 2026 the school plans to:

- Continue to provide the opportunity for a staff member to meet with parents who need support in accessing information such as school applications, SEND consultations etc.
- Continue to support parents who do not speak English and need information translated.
- Equip the Admin team to be able to provide and share information to a wider audience within the school community.

Further information and advice

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/schedule/10>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

Access to the curriculum and participation in school activities 2023- 2026

Area	Current Barrier	Objective	Actions	Time-Scale
Teaching and learning	There are increasing numbers of children working at a level below their key stage and needing to access preceding keystage curriculum in some areas. Appropriateness of learning opportunity not sufficiently well matched	To use branch mapping for setting work and assessment. To use a curriculum which best fits the child's needs to plan activities.	Provide training for teachers on branch mapping for children who need these smaller steps. Provide support and training for staff where children need to access a curriculum at an earlier stage eg accessing Early Years curriculum objectives for children who are in KS2.	Summer Term 2023 December 2023
PE Lessons	Children with SEND may find it hard to participate fully in class PE lessons as cognitively the vocabulary used and instructions are challenging.	Develop alternative activities which are simpler to follow. Include additional PE lessons where appropriate.	Provide training for support staff to support children with SEND during class PE lessons as well as offering additional PE sessions where this will be most beneficial.	Summer 2023/Autumn 2024
Activities and Trips	Children with specific medical needs may find it hard to participate in more active lessons and trips.	Ensure children can take part in active lessons and the full range of in school and out of class learning experiences.	Provide bespoke support and training for staff to support children with specific medical needs.	Spring 2024

Access to the Physical Environment 2023- 2026

PE lessons inside and outside	Children with SEND may find it hard to participate fully in class PE lessons as the playground space or equipment may not meet their needs.	Allow children to participate in class PE lessons.	Investigate the facilities in the playground for children with additional needs.	Summer 2024
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			Source additional PE resources/equipment for children with additional physical needs.	
Classrooms	A number of children would benefit from alternative furniture in the classroom to support their physical needs.	Ensure children have furniture which is suitable for their physical needs.	Source specialist furniture to meet the needs of children with physical and medical requirements	Ongoing as needed

Access to Information 2023 – 2026

EAL families and families needing support with written communication	There are increasing numbers of parents for whom English is not their first language or are not confident in written English who as a result find it difficult to access particular aspects of educational information.	Ensure parents are able to read and understand school paperwork, including SEND information. Make greater use of the TAF system to share information and understanding.	Continue to provide the opportunity for a staff member to meet with parents who need support in accessing information such as school applications, SEND consultations etc.	Ongoing as needed from Summer 2023
EAL families	Increasing numbers of parents for whom English is not their first language who would benefit from speaking to someone who can translate into their home language.	Ensure parents are able to discuss school information when they have questions.	Support parents who do not speak English and need information translated. Use of visuals for signposting to additional support.	Ongoing as needed from Summer 2023