

## **St Margaret's Academy Accessibility Plan 2014 – 2017**

### **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. The involvement of disabled children and their parents**

In preparing this accessibility plan, disabled pupils, their parents, members of staff and governors were involved.

### **3. 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'.

**4. 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
- 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.

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. The hearing support centre staff check the children's hearing aids on a daily basis. The school has a sound insulation system which benefits hearing impaired pupils.

Priority	Lead people	Strategy / action	Resources	Time frame	Success Criteria
Availability of written materials for all parents	Pastoral Support / THRIVE - SENCO Literacy - Literacy Lead Maths - Maths Lead	Prepare leaflets and improve information for all parents. Publicise in newsletter and website Make available for collection if needed Translate into Chinese and Polish?	Cost of translation - SENCO to enquire and organise once leaflets are produced	By December 2015  By December 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check leaflets are available for literacy and Maths</li> <li>Publicise in newsletter</li> <li>Make hard copies available</li> <li>Make available on website</li> </ul>	Written information available to all parents including those parents who do not speak English as their first language  July 2016 Partly achieved - THRIVE leaflet prepared  January 2017 Website has a translation facility Parent workshops have been delivered on Maths and phonics
Monitor and service the school soundfield system	Teacher of the Deaf Business manager	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	Ongoing  July 2016 4 systems not provided by PC Werth need checking Oak class system needs repairing	The sound field system will be well maintained and working efficiently.  July 2016 Checks carried out in December 2015 - report received January 2016 June 2016 new batteries ordered for soundfield system Staff training on use of hall equipment given during 2015-16
Improve accessibility to the field for wheel chair users and parents with pushchairs	Site services manager	Create a ramp onto the field	Cost of materials and labour	By December 2014	Achieved

Priority	Lead people	Strategy / action	Resources	Time frame	Success Criteria
Ensure access to all areas for a disabled pupil in Y6	Site services manager SENCO Health and safety lead Parent Occupational Therapist	Create ramp for classroom Check fire procedures Check and service disabled lifts	Cost of materials and labour Cost of engineer to service disabled lifts	By September 2014	Physical accessibility of the school increased  Achieved
Appropriate use of paints to benefit pupils with visual impairment	Site services manager SENCO Health and safety lead	Follow advice on contrasting paint for external steps	Cost of paint Build into maintenance budget	In place and ongoing  September 2016	Steps are safer for pupils / adults with visual impairment. Areas maintained on a regular basis
Improve pavement access to main entrance into school.	Site services manager Health and safety manager	Get quotes Upgrade slabs to tarmac to prevent slips and trips	Tarmac and labour	Achieved October 2015	