



# **Accessibility plan.**

## **St Catherine's C of E Primary School, in the Diocese of St Albans and affiliated to St Mary's Church, Ware**

**Updated December 2023**

St. Catherine's is a nurturing community where differences are celebrated, and caring, happy children flourish. Children embrace their learning and develop skills of wisdom and resilience, enabling them to live life in all its fullness.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

### **Purpose of Plan**

St Catherine's, as all other schools, is required to have an accessibility plan in order to monitor, oversee & increase the accessibility of our school for ALL pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors notwithstanding those with different physical or mental abilities and/or impairments. This plan intends to:

- ensure the school is mindful that its physical environment allows accessibility
- ensure the pupils have best possible access to the curriculum
- develop children's understanding that within our community there are many different needs

### **Aims**

All pupils should be given the best possible opportunities to succeed, and to the best of our ability we will ensure that the environment is well suited to all and ensures that the varied physical needs and mental learning styles are catered for. This includes physical accessibility for the whole community as well as ensuring a learning environment which caters for pupils of all learning styles and abilities. The school means to:

- ensure good quality teaching and learning is provided for all pupils, whatever learning needs they may have
- support all pupils in their social, emotional and educational development in order that they are able to go on from St Catherine's and live life in all its fullness
- ensure all pupils are able to access the school buildings
- ensure families and visitors are able to access the school buildings when required

### **Access to the whole curriculum to meet the needs of disabled members of the school community:**

Adjustments will be made throughout classrooms as and when appropriate in order to help cater for all children, including those with physical disabilities and varied learning needs. These modifications aim to support better access to the curriculum for disabled children and those with additional needs and might include:

- changes to teaching and learning arrangements
- classroom organisation and visual support within the classroom display
- timetabling (incl visual timetables when appropriate)
- lesson structure
- support from other pupils
- extra adults/staff & redeployment of staff
- CPD to enhance staff knowledge, skills and understanding to promote excellent teaching and learning for all children
- staff inset on supporting pupils with SEN, dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASD etc
- additional resources, such as reading/writing aids
- resources for pupils with specific needs, such as viewing monitors and hearing devices
- specific CPD to support PE as/when appropriate
- specific CPD for adults supporting pupils with special needs
- mixed ability, fully inclusive classes
- learning plan strategies & advice from other agencies to be relayed to appropriate adults
- welcome signs which are multi lingual

It is a core value of the school that all children are enabled to participate fully in the broader life of the school. Consequently, all children are invited to attend age relevant after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and educational visits. The only exception would occur if a child may act in a manner which could make himself or others unsafe.

### **Developing the physical environment to meet the needs of disabled members of the school community:**

We endeavour wherever possible to ensure the school buildings are accessible, safe and secure for all pupils, staff, and visitors by including:

- support/advice from outside agencies & L.A experts for pupils who may have physical, visual or hearing impairments
- lighting and paint schemes to help those who may be visually impaired
- stair-lifts to help those with physical impairments
- painted yellow lines to denote outdoor step areas where advised
- disabled parking spaces available for staff, parents and visitors
- carpeting and acoustic tiling of classrooms to help hearing impaired pupils