

St Berteline's Church of England Primary School

Access Plan 2015 - 2018

Overview

Under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, St Berteline's recognises the need to provide adequate resources for implementing an Access Plan and will ensure that the plan reflects our SEND and Equality & Diversity Policies. In line with those policies we will take the necessary steps to ensure that every young person, their families and also employees are given equality of opportunity to develop socially, to work, to participate and to learn to enjoy community life. The plan will be informed by views and aspirations of disabled pupils themselves, their families and the priorities of the local authority.

Objectives

1. Increase the extent to which SEND pupils can participate in the curriculum.
2. Improve the physical environment of school to enable SEND pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
3. Improve the availability of accessible information to SEND pupils.

St Berteline's is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in the school and in planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils.

St Berteline's aims:

- to treat all stakeholders including pupils, prospective pupils, staff, governors and other members of the school community favourably and, wherever possible, to take reasonable steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage.
- to work closely with disabled pupils, their families and any relevant outside agencies in order to remove or minimise any potential barriers to learning, which puts them at a disadvantage, but allows them to learn, achieve and participate fully in school life.

St Berteline's will:

- identify the nature of the school population including pupils already in school and the future intake, using advance information from pre-school/primary school, etc.
- audit the school's strengths and weaknesses in working with disabled pupils, to include the level of staff awareness of Equalities legislation and areas of the curriculum to which disabled pupils might have limited or no access.
- review the opportunities for the participation of disabled pupils in after school clubs and school visits,
- review the building and identify parts of the school to which disabled pupils have no or limited access.
- consider the impact on disabled pupils of the way the school is organised, for example school policies and practices around the administration of medicines and the physical environment of the school.
- review the ways in which information is currently provided for disabled pupils.
- report its findings to key stakeholders without breaching confidentiality.

Audit

St Berteline's will carry out an audit to assess its strengths and areas for development on a regular basis, based on the needs of the whole school community.

Contextual Information

The majority of the school building and playground is accessible for a child in a wheelchair. The only part of the building that is not suitable for wheelchairs is the upstairs classroom, which is used for group work, and the library.

Currently there is a small / limited range of disabilities within our school community, which include Autistic Spectrum Disorder, visual impairment, Diabetes and serious medical conditions with related susceptibility to infections. When children with specific disabilities enter school, the

school contacts the LA professionals for assessments, support and guidance for school and parents.

We have a number of children and adults who have asthma. Inhalers for children are kept in the classrooms and a record of use is noted. Some children have allergies or food intolerances. These, along with medical information, are clearly noted in class registers, the kitchen, staff room and community kitchen.

We have competent First Aiders who hold current First Aid certificates. All medication is kept in a central safe and secure place which has easy access for First Aiders and staff members. Administration of Medicines consent forms are filled in by parents, outlining the illness and the amount and time of medication. All medication that is given is recorded.

Definition of Disability

The definition of disability under the law is a wide one:

- A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse, substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- The definition includes people with a Hearing or Visual Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, mental health issues and incontinence. People with ADHD, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Downs Syndrome and Hydrocephalus are included. Medical conditions such as Cystic Fibrosis, severe Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy, Sickle Cell Anaemia and HIB are deemed disabilities. Facial disfigurement, severe Dyslexia, gross obesity and diagnosed eating disorders are all included.
- If a person has been disabled in the past (for example cancer recoverers and people with a history of mental illness) they are still covered by the legislation for the rest of their life.