

Accessibility Policy  
in conjunction with  
the Accessibility Plan

**Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School**

Name of Policy	Accessibility Policy in conjunction with the Accessibility Plan	
Approved by GB - Date	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	
Next Review Date	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	
Committee Responsible	Physical Resources/Finance Committee	

**This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.**

**"That they may have life, life in all its fullness"**

**John: Chapter 10 Verse 10**

### **Accessibility Policy and Accessibility Plan**

Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School aims to treat all stakeholders, including pupils, prospective pupils, staff, governors and other members of the school community favourably and, wherever possible, take reasonable steps to avoid placing anyone at a substantial disadvantage. The school aims 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. The school is active in promoting positive attitudes to disabled people in the school and in planning to increase access to education for all disabled pupils. As part of the school's continued communication with parents, carers and other stakeholders we continually look at ways to improve accessibility through data collection, questionnaires and Head's forums.

### **The purpose of the Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to show how Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School intends, over time, to increase the accessibility of our school for disabled pupils. Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the new law means that "schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department of Education's guidance on statutory policies for schools.

### **Definition of Disability**

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry-out normal day-to-day activities.

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**What will the Accessibility Plan do?**

1. The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Policy and SEN Policy, both of which can be accessed via the school's website.
2. Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their educational, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.
3. The Combe St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school within a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable. The Accessibility Plan contains relevant and timely actions to:

**Approach and Car Parking**

- ✓ Exterior lights at the front entrance - Ensure all lights are in working order and that stairs are easily visible. **Outcome:** entrance light and stairs are safe to use in the dark
- ✓ Improve signage and buzzer – Ensure that the route to the school office is clearly signed in standard text and braille. **Outcome:** car park and front entrance to have clear signage. Both signage and buzzer to be installed at the back entrance.
- ✓ Establish a disabled parking bay in the school car park
- ✓ Car Park Surface – Improve the surface of the car park area to avoid slippery surface and mud in the winter months. **Outcome:** surface safe to walk on throughout the year

**Routes and External Level Change**

- ✓ To redesign the front entrance to include a ramp for disabled access. **Outcome:** purpose built front office and entrance which includes disabled access. Signage to the rear of the building as an interim measure for disabled access – clear signs for wheelchair users to indicate an alternative way into the building. **Outcome:** clear signage.

**Entrance including Reception**

- ✓ Improvement to the front doors so that they can be held back to allow buggies etc. to pass through easily. **Outcome:** doorways accessible. Consideration to be given to the signage within the school. Is it visible to wheelchair users? Would the installation of a hearing loop system be beneficial?

**Vertical Movement and Internal Level Change**

- ✓ Consideration to be given to the benefits of an internal lift or temporary ramp for the main building, taking into account fire escape procedures.

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**Lavatories**

- ✓ Ensure that there is clear signage indicating the location of the disabled toilet. Ensure that the access is clear for disabled users. **Outcome:** regular checks

**Information**

- ✓ Develop a tactile plan of the building and develop a large print and braille version of school information.

**Means of Escape**

- ✓ Consider inclusion of a visible as well as audible fire alarm and consider designated refuges for disabled visitors equipped with carry-chair. **Outcome:** A visible fire alarm and a designated refuge area.

4. Wholes school training will recognise the need to continue raising awareness of equality issues for staff and governors to comply fully with the Equality Act 2010.
5. This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies, strategies and documents:
  - ✓ The School Development Plan
  - ✓ Equality Policy
  - ✓ Health & Safety Policy
  - ✓ SEND Policy
6. The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.
7. The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governing Body Committees and reported to the full Governing Body.
8. The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority in developing and implementing this Accessibility Plan.
9. The Plan will be reviewed every three years.