Swanton Morley VC Primary School

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

Policy Review Date	**March 2026**
Signed	*Ruth Robinson*

Disability Policy and Accessibility Plan 2025-2026

Introduction

This plan/statement should be read in conjunction with the disability audit and LA Guidance (MI29/03).
The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) defines a disabled person as: someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Admissions

The LA is the admission authority. Under LA auspices Swanton Morley VC Primary School will ensure that admission arrangements will not discriminate against any disabled person.
It is, however, the duty of the school to ensure that parents are aware of potential difficulties that a disabled child may encounter in the school environment.

Education and Associated Services

1. The school will take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled pupils are not placed at a knowing and substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled peers.

2. In considering what is reasonable the school will take account of

- Time – periods of notice to effect a change, time within a financial year etc
- Pupil Numbers – e.g. staffing adjustments due to falling roles
- Devolved Capital Formula (amounts, commitments, planned projects)
- School budget situation
- The practicalities of making adjustments
- Health and Safety factors
- The interests of other pupils

3. All reasonable steps will be taken to ascertain disabilities of pupils. Consultation with parents will determine strategies to support disabled pupils within school. Relevant information will be passed on to staff to ensure full staff awareness e.g. Pastoral Assistant, Swimming teacher. Any care plans will be published in the staffroom.

4. Staff INSET on particular issues will be completed/updated as appropriate to ensure staff awareness e.g. use of epi-pen, asthma, epilepsy, hemi-plegia, Tourette's syndrome.

5. No pupil will be discriminated against by excluding them because of their disability. The School Behaviour Policy, however, covers all pupils; a disability therefore does not preclude a pupil from all the sanctions up to and including external exclusions.

Accessibility

Making School Buildings More Accessible
1. Although the school site is split level, due in part to subsequent additions, the main building is partially accessible for wheelchair users. There is ramp access to the front entrance, including disabled toilets, and the foyer entrance allows for access to the hall and infant end of the building. There is also ramp access from the reception playground to the lower part (infant) of the school, including the hall.

2. There are no first-floor rooms.

3. The school has one disabled toilet near the front entrance. The toilet, which doubles as the adult male toilets, is for both sexes. It meets DDA requirements (installed August 2006).

4. Majority of step edges are painted white with tarmac paint.

5. Recent improvements achieved are:
- Disabled access to the upper school (Y5/Y6 and offices) improved by replacing steps from hall with ramp and hand rail
- Additional disabled parking added to carpark
- Ramps installed to improve access to infant classes, library and hall
- Steps marked with yellow paint or tape for partially sighted child
- Classrooms being adapted for partially sighted child

Curriculum

Swanton Morley VC Primary School is committed to ensuring equality of curriculum access for all pupils (see also 1 and 2 above).

This includes a commitment to

a) an appropriately differentiated curriculum
b) ensuring that the literacy skills are sufficiently developed to allow curriculum access.

Hearing and Visually Impaired Pupils

1. The school is aware of suggested targets and strategies to address the needs of visually and hearing impaired pupils. In the event of the admission of pupils with these disabilities advice from the LA will be taken on strategies to be employed.

2. The school is committed to improving the acoustic and lighting conditions for all pupils. Carpeting has been introduced to all appropriate classrooms. Blinds and curtains have also been introduced/replaced to improve lighting conditions.

All future refurbishments will take into consideration lighting, colour schemes, and acoustics.
The actions listed above illustrate Swanton Morley VC Primary School's approach to the issue of disability. Rather than produce a range of medium and long term policies which, to a large extent are hypothetical, given that a school has no way of knowing the nature of future disabilities within school, the school will respond to the needs of pupils *on role* as appropriate.