

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*“Where we learn to love and love
to learn”*

***Together at St. Joseph's
We learn to love
Following Jesus,
Sharing our gifts
And
Building God's World”***

Anam Cara

Vision

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 law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

He/she has a physical or mental impairment and
The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for schools. The plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head. At St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary school the plan will form part of the Resources section of the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the Headteacher and evaluated by the relevant Governors’ committee.

At St. Joseph’s Primary School we are committed to working together to provide an inspirational and exciting learning environment where all children can develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning. We believe that all children should be happy, safe and valued so that they gain a respectful, caring attitude towards each other and the environment both locally and globally.

The Accessibility Plan has been developed and drawn up based upon information supplied by the Local Authority. The document will be used to advise other school planning documents and policies and will be reported upon annually in respect of progress and outcomes. The intention is to provide a projected plan for a three year period ahead of the next review date.

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school’s Equality Objective and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that Local Authority will monitor the school’s activity under the Equality Act 2010 (and in particular schedule 10 regarding Accessibility) and will advise upon the compliance with that duty.

St. Joseph’s 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 education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. We are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of

the Equality Act 2010 with regards to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The 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:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as , equally, prepared for life as are the able bodied pupils; (if a school fails to do this they are in breach of their duties under the Equalities Act 2010); this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits – it also covers the provision of specialist or auxiliary aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum within a reasonable timeframe;
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment of the school, adding specialist facilities as necessary – this covers improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education within a reasonable time frame.
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff parents and visitors with disabilities; examples might include hand-outs, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and its events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school's website.
The Accessibility Plan will be monitored through the Governor Resources Committee.

1. Aims and Objectives

Our aims are to:

Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

Current good practice

We ask about any disability or health condition in early communications with new parents and carers. For parents/carers of children already at the school, we regularly ask parents to update information held.

Physical Environment

No child would be excluded from participating in extra-curricular activities. Some can present particular challenges, for example: Lunch and break times for pupils with social/interaction impairments, after school clubs for pupils with physical impairments, school trips for pupils with medical needs.

Access Audit

The school site has two one storey buildings with several access points. The assembly, parish and dining halls are on the ground floor and are accessible to all. On-site parking for staff and visitors is available. The area outside the front gate is available for those with Disabled Badges to use. Access to the Main building can be gained without a ramp. Access to the Annexe building can be gained by the use of steps/a ramp.

The school has internal emergency signage and escape routes clearly marked.

Management, Co-ordination and Implementation

Each individual situation regarding pupils with disabilities will involve us consulting experts. The Governors and Leadership Team will always work closely with the Diocese, Local Authority and anyone other agencies that may be involved.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary will be led by its Mission Statement., where our children can grow and learn in safe environment. We are all equal and strive to ensure the children educated at St. Joseph's will *"Love to learn and learn to love"*

Reviewed and adopted June 2018

Next Review – June 2020