

Accessibility Policy 2021/22



Aims

Schools are required under the Equality Act 2010 to have an accessibility plan. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Increase the extent to which learners with additional needs can participate in the curriculum;
- Improve the physical environment of the school to enable learners with additional needs to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided;
- Improve the availability of accessible information to learners with additional needs.

Our school aims to treat all its learners fairly and with love, care and compassion. This involves providing access and opportunities for all learners without discrimination of any kind. St Mary's aims to educate and inspire with joy, faith and love because we are an inclusive Catholic community. The plan will be made available online on the school website, and paper copies are available upon request.

Our school is also committed to ensuring staff are trained in equality issues with reference to the Equality Act 2010, including understanding disability issues. The school supports any available partnerships to develop and implement the plan. This is in line with Christ the King Catholic Collegiate's accessibility plan. Our school's complaints procedure covers the accessibility plan. If you have any concerns relating to accessibility in school, this procedure sets out the process for raising these concerns.

Legislation and guidance

This document meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools on the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 defines an individual as disabled 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 undertake normal day to day activities.

Under the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. The definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' for learners with disabilities under the Equality Act 2010, to alleviate any substantial disadvantage that a disabled learner faces in comparison with non-disabled learners. This can include, for example, the provision of an auxiliary aid or adjustments to premises. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Action plan

This action plan sets out the aims of our accessibility plan in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. We aim to increase access to the curriculum for learners with a disability by:

- offering a differentiated curriculum for all learners.
- using resources tailored to the needs of learners who require support to access the curriculum.
- using Curriculum resources which include examples of people with disabilities.

- tracking Curriculum progress for all learners, including those with a disability.
- setting targets effectively that are appropriate for learners with additional needs.
- regularly reviewing the curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of all learners.

We aim to improve and maintain access to the physical environment:

The environment is adapted to the needs of learners as required.

This includes:

- Ramps;
- Corridor width;
- Accessible parking bays;
- Accessible toilets facilities;
- Library shelves at wheelchair-accessible height;
- Multi-height station in the Reception area
- Multi height tables.

We aim to improve the delivery of information to learners with a disability.

Our school uses a range of communication methods to ensure information is accessible. This includes:

- Internal signage
- Large print resources
- Awareness of light sources and appropriate seating arrangements
- Pictorial or symbolic representation

Monitoring arrangements

This document will be reviewed every 3 years, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary. It will be approved by the local Governing Body.

Links with other policies

This accessibility plan is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Risk assessment policy
- Health and safety policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) information report
- Supporting learners with medical conditions policy