

Accessibility Plan 2016-19

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that, whatever the abilities and needs of members of the school community, everyone is equally valued and treats one another with respect. Pupils should be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and value diversity.

Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is classified as disabled if they have '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.'

Physical or mental impairments can include sensory impairments (such as those affecting sight and hearing) and learning difficulties. The definition also covers certain medical conditions when they have a long-term and substantial effect on pupils' everyday lives.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to recognise our duty under the Equality Act 2010 to not discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- in relation to admissions
- in the way that it provides education for pupils
- in the way that it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service, or
- by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

The Governing Body recognises its statutory duty to produce an Accessibility Plan, which is reviewed every three years.

Policy Development

Who?	Method of consultation
Headteacher and Governors	Resources Committee
Teachers	Professional Development Meeting
Non-teaching staff	Via Support Staff Meeting

Aims

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School strives to include all pupils, including those with disabilities, in the full life of the school.

We have three aims for our Accessibility Plan:

1. To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
2. To improve the physical environment to enable disabled pupils, as well as other stakeholders, to take better advantage of education, benefits and facilities provided, as far as is practical.

3. To improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils and other stakeholders.

Our strategies to meet these aims include:

- having high expectations of all pupils
- finding ways in which all pupils can take part in the full curriculum including sport, music and drama
- planning out-of-school activities including all school trips and excursions so that pupils with disabilities can participate
- setting admissions policy and criteria which does not discriminate against pupils with disabilities or treat them unfairly
- devising teaching strategies which will remove barriers to learning and participation for pupils with disabilities
- planning the physical environment of the school to cater for the needs of pupils with disabilities
- treating all in the school with respect and regard for individual differences by developing a whole school ethos on accepting difference
- ensuring information is accessible to all members of the school community
- ensuring all children have access to positive images of disabled adults and children
- involving parents in all parts of their child's school life and decisions that have been made, and respecting the parents' and child's right to confidentiality

We aim to reduce and, where possible, eliminate barriers to accessing the curriculum and to ensure full participation in the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Community for pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders with a disability. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School recognises that it had a duty to supply auxiliary aids and services when it would be reasonable to do so and if such an aid would alleviate any substantial disadvantage that the pupil faces in comparison to non-disabled pupils. Such aids could be hearing loops, adaptive keyboards and special software. The key test is reasonableness as far as what the school can be expected to provide.

Our school building is 55 years old, which provides some challenges to accessibility. However there are two disabled toilets (one in pre-school and one in the main school building) and some wide doors to enable wheelchair access. Improvements to access to the school building was completed in Summer 2017. We recognise that some building works by the Local Authority would be required before the buildings could successfully meet the needs of pupils with severe mobility problems and we would respond quickly to the needs of possible future admission should this be necessary.

We recognise that The Equality Duty 2010 explicitly recognises that disabled pupils' needs may be different from those of non-disabled pupils and that this might mean making

reasonable adjustments of treating disabled pupils better than non-disabled pupils in order to meet their needs.

Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act is consistent with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's aims.

Other related school policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality, Information and objectives Policy, the SEND policy, the Policy for managing Behaviour, the Anti-Bullying Policy, the Safeguarding Policy and the Teaching and Learning Policy.

Accessibility Plan Targets 2016-2019

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School takes a strategic view in planning for disabled pupils and will fully consider potential, together with any reasonable adjustments.

1. Education and Related Activities:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will seek and follow the advice of the Local Authority services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEND advisers, and of appropriate health professionals when planning for individual needs.

2. Physical Environment:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will take account of the needs of pupils, parents, staff, governors and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishment of the site and premises. If required, teaching areas, acoustics, colour schemes and the accessibility of facilities and fittings would be reassessed.

3. Provision of Information:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the Local Authority, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Review

This policy was adopted by St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Governing Body, Autumn 2016 and is scheduled for review by the Resources Committee every three years.

Reviewed Autumn 2017
Next review: Summer 2019

Name :Gabriella Tiley

Date: _November 2017
(Governor)

Name: Wendy D'Arcy

Date: November 2017
(Head Teacher)