



Accessibility plan

St Joseph's is a **happy**, welcoming **community**, enriched by our **diversity**.

A place where we **love** one another, love **learning**, love **Jesus** and love **life**.

Date of Policy	Autumn Term 2024
Next Review	Autumn Term 2027

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School our values reflect our commitment to a school where there are high expectations of everyone. Children are provided with high quality learning opportunities so that each child attains and achieves all that they are able to. Everyone in our school is important and included. We promote an ethos of care and trust where every member of our school community feels that they truly belong and are valued. We work hard to ensure there are no invisible children here, recognising everyone's uniqueness and success. We recognise learning in all its forms and are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. We are a safe school, committed to improving children's confidence and self-esteem. We know that safe and happy children achieve.

This Accessibility Plan is drawn up in compliance with current legislation and requirements as specified in Schedule 10, relating to Disability, of the Equality Act 2010. School Governors are accountable for ensuring the implementation, review and reporting of progress of the Accessibility Plan over a prescribed period.

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:

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

The Accessibility Plan is structured to complement and support the school's Equality Objectives, and will similarly be published on the school website. We understand that the 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.

Objectives

St Joseph's Catholic 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 regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

The school recognises and values parent's knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on their ability to carry out everyday activities and respects the parent's and child's right to confidentiality.

The St Joseph's Catholic 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:-

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a physical disability and/or sensory impairments, expanding the curriculum as necessary to ensure that pupils with a disability are as equally prepared for life as 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 schools 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 timeframe;
- 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 school events; the information should be made available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe.

Contextual Information

St Joseph's Primary School, is a highly inclusive school. It is made up of 1 building on 2 floors – the ground floor for EYFS and Key Stage 1 and the first floor for Key Stage 2. The building is fully accessible to the whole school community and has a lift.

Information about the school's disabled population

The school's population can have children who have some kind of impairment, be it physical or mental. Some children have moderate and specific learning disabilities.

Home visits are undertaken for children beginning Nursery and Reception if any additional needs have been identified. The LA and health advisers are contacted for support and guidance.

Staff are trained in the use of epipens and asthma inhalers where necessary and several members of staff hold current first aid qualifications.

Transition meetings are held between class teachers each year. A thorough system of reviews takes place for children on the SEN register and those who have disabilities. If children have significant health problems, all appropriate adults are informed.

This Accessibility Plan should be read in conjunction with the following school policies,

strategies and documents:

- Behaviour Management Policy
- Curriculum Policies
- Emergency Plan
- Health & Safety Policy
- School Improvement Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as and when school policies are reviewed. The terms of reference for all governors' committees will include the need to consider Equality and Diversity issues as required by the Equality Act 2010.

The Accessibility Plan will be published on the school website.

Accessibility Action Plan 2024 -2027

Aim 1

To increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum

Aim 2

To improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of an inclusive education and associated services.

Objective	Action	Resources	Timescale
To ensure that all children can participate in the school curriculum	Home visit to prepare for any additional needs or adjustment required for the intake of children into EYFS. Ongoing identification of children who may need additional support, reasonable adjustments or specialist resources.	EYFS release time As required	Ongoing Ongoing
To ensure all staff are confident at making reasonable adjustment to ensure all children in their class fully access all learning experiences	Up-date staff training regularly on; Allergies Asthma Epilepsy Epi-pen Diabetes Autism Hearing Impairment Arrange training as soon as possible prior to any child joining the school with a specific medical condition.	Trainers for specialist areas or delivered in house by SENDCo as appropriate	As required
Maintain safe access around the school	Paths kept clear of any overgrowing plants	Maintenance of paths/walkways.	Ongoing
To ensure documentation is accessible for all	Regular review of all documentation; Hard copies School website	Checklist of good practice – font type and size, colour of background etc.	Termly checks

parents/carers and pupils			
Ensure all disabled pupils can be safely evacuated	Put in place Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) for all pupils with difficulties as required. Develop a system to ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities	Release time for SENDCo as required	As required