



ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

February 2020

Review Date: February 2022

Introduction

This policy is drawn up in accordance with the planning duty in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). It draws on the guidance set out in “Accessible Schools: Planning to increase access to schools for disabled pupils”, issued by the DfES in July 2002.

As a Catholic School this accessibility policy will be carried out with due regard to our School Vision and Mission Statement:

Together we love- Together we hope- Together we learn

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School is an inclusive, vibrant, Catholic community where we encourage everyone to share a love of learning and the love of Christ.

Together, we hope to inspire ourselves and each other to be the best we can and to embrace our future with confidence.

Definition of Disability

Disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA):
“A person has a disability 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 carry out normal day to day activities”.

Key Objective

To reduce and eliminate barriers to access to the curriculum and to full participation in the school community for pupils, and prospective pupils, staff, educators and visitors with a disability.

Principles

- Compliance with the DDA is consistent with the school’s aims and equal opportunities policy, and the operation of the school’s SEN policy;
- The school recognises its duty under the DDA (as amended by the SENDA);
 - not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions; and provision of education and associated services.
 - not to treat disabled pupils or adults less favourably
 - to take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
 - to publish an Accessibility Plan

- In performing their duties, governors and staff will have regard to the DRC Code of Practice (2002);
- The school recognises and values parents' knowledge of their child's disability and its effect on his/her disability to carry out normal activities, and respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality;
- The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated and adjusted to meet the needs of individual pupils and their preferred learning styles; and endorses the key principles in the National Curriculum 2000 framework, which underpin the development of a more inclusive curriculum:
 - Setting suitable learning challenges
 - Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
 - Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils

Activity

This section outlines the main activities which the school undertakes, and is planning to undertake, to achieve the key objective outlined above.

- a) Education and related activities
The school will continue to seek and follow the advice of LEA services, such as specialist teacher advisers and SEN inspectors/advisers, and of appropriate health professionals from the local NHS Trusts.
- b) Physical environment
The school will take account of the needs of pupils, staff, educators and visitors with physical difficulties and sensory impairments when planning and undertaking future improvements and refurbishments of the site and premises, such as improved access, lighting, acoustic treatment and colour schemes, and more accessible facilities and fittings.
- c) Provision of information
The school will make itself aware of local services, including those provided through the LEA, for providing information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Approved by Governing Body:.....

Date:

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