



Accessibility Policy and Action Plan

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Excellence for all

Service to others

Inspired by Christ

Policy ratified by the Full Governing Body

Owner: Rebecca Giles

Quality Assured: Daniel Walton

Date: September 2024

Next Review Date: October 2025

Accessibility Policy Statement

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School promotes a positive attitude towards diversity and is committed to providing a service that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the diverse community it serves. This commitment is therefore reflected in the school's accessibility strategy. The strategy encourages a proactive approach to improving access for pupils with disabilities. The strategy regards the duties as outlined in the SEN and Disability Act 2001 amended Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the main duties including:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to their disability.
- To make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils so they are not at a substantial disadvantage.
- To plan to increase access to education for disabled pupils.

This plan should also be read in conjunction with and will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, strategies, documents and plans:

- Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policies
- Kier Facilities Policy
- SEND Information Report
- School Development Plan
- Staff Handbook and Mission Statement

The accessibility strategy outlines the steps the school is taking to improve access for pupils with a disability. The strategy aims to promote a proactive approach to improving access by:

- Ensuring that the rights of pupils with disabilities are upheld.
- Supporting the aims and aspirations of pupils with a disability.
- Improving access to information, curriculum and the environment.
- Creating a positive attitude towards disability and challenge negative perceptions.
- Developing a culture of awareness, acceptance and inclusion.
- It is recognised that many of these steps will benefit all school users.

Disability is defined in law as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on the ability to do normal day to day activities. Pupils with learning difficulties are likely to be protected by the act as well as those with conditions such as autism or ADHD, physical disabilities, mental health conditions and difficulties or impairments with hearing and sight.

Consultation, Implementation and Review

The accessibility action plan has been produced by St John's Catholic Comprehensive School in consultation with staff, young people and children, and specialist advisors. The action plan sets out how we plan to:

- improve the physical environment of schools to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of education, benefits, facilities and services provided.
- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.
- improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils and their families.

The Action Plans, relating to these key aspects of accessibility, are attached below. These plans will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. New Plans will be drawn up every three years.

1. Action Plan - Environment

Increasing access to the physical environment

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School will aim to improve 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. The school will take account of the needs of pupils and other users 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.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
1.1	Continue to assess the environment for safe mobility for our VI students.	Review Signage and classroom names	SENCO/VI Team/Operations Manager /Kier Facilities	Brialle signage reviewed and updated. Enlarged print signage reviewed and updated
		Apply for Yellow Visibility edging on Heart Space	SENCO/VI Team/Operations Manager /Kier Facilities	Application ongoing
1.2	Continued maintenance of the Lift Access.	Review the Lift Access systems including maintenance and appropriate levels of usage and access.	Operations Manager/ Kier Facilities R2L Team	Maintenance is now completed on the day of fault. R2L circulate updated student usage of Lift system when changes occur

2. Action Plan - Curriculum

Increasing access to the curriculum

St John’s Catholic Comprehensive School will aim 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. 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 aids and equipment, which may assist these pupils in accessing the curriculum, providing staff training and the way the school prevents SEND based bullying and harassment.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
2.1	Ensure each student selects KS4 options that they can flourish and succeed in, whilst gaining the qualifications required for them to access appropriate further education, training and/or employment.	<p>Yearly collaboration between KS4 Lead / SENCO and students during the option process</p> <p>Staggered option process where students select 2 KS4 Options for study in Year 9/10 and 2 subjects for foundation study in Year 9 prior to taking 2 further KS4 Options for study in Year 10/11</p> <p>Careers guidance provided to all students prior to the Options process</p>	KS4 Lead / SENCO / Careers Lead	Ongoing
2.2	Sixth Form Foundation Pathway to be widened to ensure equal access to all, and enhanced to ensure students have access to appropriate further education, training and/or employment.	<p>Increase range of Foundation Pathway subjects (facilitating access to appropriate further education, training and/or employment)</p> <p>Access to ICT resources and conducive study environment during free periods.</p>	<p>KS5 Lead</p> <p>KS5 Lead</p>	<p>Numbers of students accessing the offer has increased since July 2023 and the range of courses incorporated to the offer has widened:</p> <p>English Lang GCSE Maths GCSE Public Services L2 Employability Skills L2 Enrichment Programme</p> <p>(with a pathway to L3 Public Services and L3 Finance study)</p> <p>Students timetabled to a supervised ICT study room during any free lessons</p>

2.3	Extra-Curricular offer to be enhanced	Protected period to staff who plan and offer an inclusive Extra-curricular activity	T&L Lead	Increased offer of EC across the school with timetable created and circulated Week 1 of September.
2.4	Careers Pathway to priorities students in receipt of EHCP	Completion of Supported Employment Training Embedded plan for SEND priority to include a Career meeting and discussions surrounding WEX Access	Careers Leads / SENCO / Learning Support Team	Training completed. Individual plans to be devised and implemented during course of the year
2.5	Reading Programme to be enhanced across the school	Bedrock programme purchased and trialled by English. Bedrock programme Training to be provided to all staff using the software The programme has now been rolled out to entire Year 7 & 8 cohorts. Intervention training has been completed by SENCO and LSA Team.	KS3 Lead / English Leads	Successful trial completed at KS3. Training provided

3. Action Plan - Information

Ensuring the availability of information to disabled pupils and their families.

St John’s Catholic Comprehensive School aims to improve the delivery of written information to pupils, staff, parents and visitors with disabilities. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about the school and school events. This information should be available in various preferred formats within a reasonable timeframe and be provided by individual schools and the local authority.

	Priority	Action	Person Responsible	Outcomes
3.1	WEDUC Parent App to be trialled for Years 7 & 12 from September 2024, with roll out to all Year Groups from November 2024.	Senior Assistant Head – Pastoral to continue to liaise with WEDUC to support with the launch. Limited version of App to be used with Sixth Form as trial.	Senior Assistant Head - Pastoral Senior Assistant Head - Pastoral & Head of KS5	Ongoing Trial undertaken successfully
3.2	Website to be reviewed for accessibility in line with Ofsted requirements and Academy guidelines	Website audit to be completed by academy. Website audit to be completed by school improvement partner. Accessibility statement / information to be devised and uploaded	Associate Head / Director of Technical Support	Academy review completed School improvement partner audit completed. Completed